

adequately for our people. We can provide jobs for those who are willing and able to work; we can provide adequate health services for the aged and the sick; we have the wherewithal to provide for those who are unable to work. I find it strange that while less fortunate countries are working desperately to provide jobs for their people and to stimulate growth in their national economies, the government of this wealthy and vigorous nation deliberately retards our economy in an avowed attempt to create prosperity. We shall enjoy prosperity in Canada, we are told, just as soon as the government has brought inflation within bounds.

The price we have to pay for this prosperity, we are told, is massive unemployment, loss of foreign markets for our products and higher taxation. What a formula! What a dream! The fact is, it is not a formula; it is a new set of rules for the old game of politics. And it is not a dream; it is a plain, old-fashioned nightmare. I must admit, in all seriousness, that when it comes to sloganeering, this government has no peer. I am reminded of the just society, but only for a brief moment. Just as the just society begins to fade into the lexicon of governmental catch-phrases, I am told to take heart again; that I am now standing on the threshold of greatness. I plead with the government to deliver us from such greatness. After seven years of such greatness I doubt that our sensibilities and our economy can absorb much more. I am also absolutely certain, that the unemployed in our country would trade their greatness for a job. I am equally certain that the elderly people in our country would trade their greatness for an adequate pension.

This would be a good opportunity, to enlarge on the question of old age security and to ask a simple question. How could it be that in a country which rivals most countries of the world in natural and human resources, we cannot solve this problem? We have legislation on the statute books designed to provide for people who have no other means of support or who have inadequate incomes at a time in their lives when they are no longer productive. One would quite naturally suppose that their needs are being served. But that is far from the case. We have legislation, true enough; but it has been bent, twisted and reshaped to the point at which no one can really say just what the legislation is supposed to achieve, or for whom.

To add to the ineffectiveness of the law, the old age security offices are so poorly managed that it is a miracle that anyone at all is served by this vital program. That should not really surprise anyone, Mr. Speaker, because inefficiency is not restricted to the social security program; it is the order of the day for this government. We have the resources, we have the trained, talented minds in this country and we have the will to solve this vexing problem. What, then, is the hold-up?

For some reason which no one has ever explained, the elderly, the handicapped and the pensioners are placed in a neat little square which has been labelled "Fixed Income". Because they have a nice title they are expected to keep quiet, to enjoy the good things in life and to not bother the government: the government, after all, is busy holding back the economy, creating unemployment and new cabinet positions. We are led to believe that the

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government cannot be expected to tackle our difficult problems when it is easier to provide for people who do not want to work. It is far easier to provide hostels for hippies, millions of dollars for the Company of Young Canadians and say to the country, "Today belongs to the young. The youth of this country must be served whether or not they want to work, contribute to society and pay taxes." I refer, Mr. Speaker, to those of our young people who find it easier to label themselves revolutionaries and intellectuals and talk through their beards about the brave new world they are going to create.

Our government appears to be preoccupied with these people—and not just with those who have developed in our own society. We say to the hippies, the yuppies and the draft-dodgers and deserters from the United States, "Come to the promised land. Come to Canada and work against our government and our institutions."

It is time we extended the great promise of our land to those who have contributed to it with their labours, their loyalty and their respect for its laws and institutions. It is a truism that a man who cannot provide for his own children has nothing to offer those of his neighbours. I am not against foreign aid, Mr. Speaker. I would go so far as to suggest that we should continue to show compassion and understanding for the plight of the underdeveloped countries of the world. However, I consider it irresponsible for a government to commit itself to giving hundreds of millions of dollars to other nations when there are people in Canada who are needy, sick and elderly and who look to a government in Ottawa for understanding and assistance. They might just as well be looking to the moon.

We talk every day about the problems of the sick, the elderly and the destitute, and I wonder if the government feels that talking about the problem is all that is necessary. I wonder if the government really believes that by talking about these problems they will just fade away. I say to the government that it is time to look after the needs and the aims of our own people. After they are satisfied, if anything is left we can ask ourselves whether we really want to open our borders to people who cannot make a go of it in their own society. It becomes increasingly difficult to understand why our government, alone among governments of the western world, does not see fit to establish even minimum standards of conduct for immigrants and prospective citizens of our country. Are we so badly off that we are willing to make citizens from the dregs, the cast-offs and the misfits of other societies?

Judging from the government's performance in providing jobs for native-born Canadians, I cannot believe that we really need the tens of thousands of malcontents and cop-outs who have been accepted into our country in recent years. I am just as conscious as anyone else of the need for a haven in the world for those who have been oppressed and who have been denied an opportunity to express themselves. There are times, however, when it is more prudent to speak from the head than from the heart.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. It being six o'clock, I regret that I have to interrupt the hon. member.