

income controls, they should do it gradually, but that they should be wise enough, however, to establish a monitoring body so that the situation does not get worse than before. This step had been proposed by the government well before the Speech from the Throne and unfortunately, some union representatives have rejected it because they wanted controls to be removed once and for all. Who will be the first to pay the cost? The Canadian taxpayers, as usual. I suggest the government's intent to remove those controls gradually in the next session and to establish a monitoring body is a very commendable one. And I hope that the opposition which also advocated decontrol will cooperate with the government to that effect. There are also other measures for which I am glad I have crossed the floor. I had also requested that the Montreal area become a designated area with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in order to assist small businesses. This was done.

● (1542)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote an excerpt from the Speech from the Throne which will enable me to elaborate on my comments. I quote:

The government has recently made new funding proposals to the provinces which will improve the efficiency and flexibility of social services such as the rehabilitation of disabled persons, day care and community development services. The delivery of these services will thereby better reflect varying conditions and priorities across the country. It is hoped that the response of provincial governments will lead to the introduction of a revised social services act during this session.

In the present situation, we should really try to solve our problems. Let us consider for instance, the case of older citizens. Certainly they do not receive a very high pension and if they had a little more money, it seems to me that they would have a better chance to make both ends meet. Welfare recipients do not have enough money either, even if the federal government pays 50 per cent of welfare payments.

The problem does not necessarily derive from the fact that the amounts are not adequate. It is rather a problem of housing, Mr. Speaker. Why? Because in their present home, everything is more expensive: hydro, gas, fuel oil. An old age pensioner lives in a slum and has to pay for some drugs which are not included in the free drugs program and if that person has to pay more for the energy he or she consumes because of the lack of insulation and because the cold air comes in through all the windows, he or she is very unhappy.

Mr. Speaker, these persons are in a difficult situation and this is why I am saying that the government expects to be able within a year or two to help them and I am one of those who will work hard for the establishment of a guaranteed minimum annual income, which will at the same time eliminate a good many of these problems. That is where we are, Mr. Speaker, and we have no other choice. This is why as members of this House we must keep on working to improve the living conditions of Canadians, be they young or old, rich or poor.

Another point which I would like to raise, Mr. Speaker, concerns young people. Today when young people graduate from CEGEPS or universities—and God knows how numerous they are, a fact that not I alone have noticed, for my col-

leagues must have too—they want to work, they are ready to take courses and eventually get themselves recycled, they do not want to be unemployed as some people seem to believe. People ask: what do young people want today? Perhaps to stay idle and draw social assistance or unemployment benefits?

Mr. Speaker, maybe there are some who think that way, but I believe they are a minority. We know that these young people are the future of our nation, that they will form tomorrow's citizenry and that we must give them the education they need. I will also take the opportunity of the presence in this House of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) to tell him that it will be necessary to create more training courses for the young who are unemployed in order to give them a fighting chance on the job market. We will also have to provide them with jobs.

There are several ways of creating jobs in this country, Mr. Speaker. If the provinces are willing to go along with the federal government, it may be possible to create more manufacturing or processing plants in Canada, which will result not only in new jobs being created but also in cost reductions. For example, we import steel from the United States and it costs us very dearly while we could have it processed in Canada. So why not do it at home? Mr. Speaker, these are questions which I am asking myself. I know from reading the Speech from the Throne that the government has indicated really good intentions in all these fields. I am convinced that if all hon. members were willing to work together hand in hand, and put before all else the interests of Canadians as a whole instead of spending their time playing politics, we would get somewhere.

I would like to make another point. For years, and long before being elected to this House and also when I was sitting in the opposition, frequently sending memoirs to the government on the subject, I was promoting the establishment of the office of ombudsman. I feel it is high time for this country to have its ombudsman. How many people have to face big government machinery? I am thinking about unemployment insurance and immigration. Too many small bureaucrats have too much discretionary power while ministerial staff have their hands tied. Let us imagine a situation where a junior civil servant takes it upon his lonesome self to send back home someone for some ridiculous motives. He simply does it. I realize there are procedures. There are appeals, but very often, Mr. Speaker, the civil servant's decision prevails. I am wondering how many people win their case in such appeals.

I am convinced that an ombudsman would not only be a useful tool, as the protector of ordinary citizens and taxpayers, but that he would also be of service, at least I hope so, to civil servants who are very often kept in the dark through no fault of theirs. This is why civil servants should also be entitled to the services of this ombudsman.

Mr. Speaker, I would have many other things to say about this, but since my time is limited, I shall go on to other issues. One thing that I wish is that Parliament can soon do more to prevent delinquency among young people. Having been a member of the sub-committee on penitentiaries and having seen all sorts of things, I believe that the time has come to do