

Alleged Non-Support of Employment Programs

will be more generous, but even then if two old age pensioners happen to be living together to enjoy their remaining years with a little comfort, \$15 will be taken away from them because the masterminds looked into a computer and discovered that two can live more cheaply than one. All people in this country, including the poor, are now aware of the proper nourishment a body needs in order to exist. Yet, this government continues to have studies and establish commissions.

• (4:30 p.m.)

The Senate Committee on Poverty travelled across this country finding out about the poor. Where is its report? Now, a nutritional study is being carried out across the nation. The government even paid some \$70,000 to allow the poor to hold a conference. I ask, what purpose is this serving? We know what the poverty line figure is. We know the cost of proper food and nourishment. We should know that those who are sick and disabled require a little more help. We know we must help the blind and the retarded. We are aware that our poorer children require dental care and proper vitamins. We know the deaf need hearing aids. We know that the poor people of our country live in deteriorated housing. Yet, we continue to study more. It is not too difficult to see the reasoning. These are nothing but delaying tactics. The government hopes that one day it will wake up and find that the problem has disappeared. This problem will not go away; it will remain with us. It is becoming worse every hour of the day just as surely as the cost of living is increasing every day. Strangely enough this government has all the answers to the problems of other countries.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) tours the foreign countries and tells them what is wrong and how to solve their problems. We must help feed the hungry of the world. We do, thank God, and we should. We must help develop the poorer nations of the world. We do. We pour millions of dollars into the developing countries. We teach and help other nations to grow wheat and then we pay our farmers in the west not to grow wheat. When it comes to helping the poverty stricken of our own country, the stock answer is that if we are to provide more help for the disadvantaged taxes must be increased. This is a lot of hogwash.

What are the latest developments? The government held a conference with the provincial ministers who presented briefs outlining their problems. What will happen now? The government will consider the proposals of the provinces and then have new consultations. Another meeting is planned for June. What then? There will be more consultations and they will have to await a further study to study the previous studies. Around the circle they will go.

Just a few days ago the minister advised that there are inequities in the cutoff point for family allowances. This will mean further delays. The government has found a new phrase, "the tapering mechanism" which will reduce injustices in respect of those having large families and an income of over \$10,000. How is it that this injustice was discovered only after the white paper had been pro-

[Mr. Marshall.]

duced? Where were the experts when these consultations were taking place?

Again, those to whom our masterful programs are directed will continue to suffer and their children will remain undeveloped as a fourth generation on welfare. What about our programs to produce employment opportunities in Canada? We sit here and legislate loan programs to help regional disparity in the provinces. These are some of the programs: There is the fisheries improvement loans legislation, the farm improvement loans legislation and the farm credit corporations of the provinces. Then, we have the small business loans and the industrial development banks. What affect have these programs had on the employment situation in Canada? Now, we have the regional development incentive grants and every day we hear reports concerning how many jobs are to be created. This great program has been in effect for almost two years. What is the result? In the Atlantic provinces, especially in Newfoundland, there is a study to see why this program is not working. It is not working because it is directed to the wrong people.

If the government wishes to conduct a proper survey to find out why these programs are failing, why does it not interview the people who have tried to obtain some of these loans, such as small businessmen who have initiative and knowledge concerning the natural resources in their areas? The government does not do this because it has no faith in the initiative and capability of its people. What is required is a little faith in Canadians. Why should we not invest some risk capital in Canadians who could start small industries related to natural resources. This would create employment opportunities across this country which would benefit the country. All that results is frustration, disillusionment and unemployment, which keeps rising day by day. A tragedy exists today in Canada in that one-fifth of our population requires help. I do not refer to help in the sense of words and fancy phrases, but rather help in the form of human consideration and immediate action to find the moneys required to overcome this tragedy.

I can only repeat, and remind everyone in this House, that thousands of human beings across this nation, both young and old, are suffering from undernourishment, lack of medical services and in a large number of cases, hunger. It is our duty to prevent this tragedy continuing. This will not be done while present conditions exist. I know the minister is concerned, and I know he has had difficulty in persuading the members of his cabinet to accept some of his recommendations. I urge him to continue his efforts in order to help the poverty stricken people in our country.

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I regret that the House has chosen a motion such as this on which to spend an afternoon and evening because it is the type of motion that really cannot get us anywhere. If the government has done all the nasty things the motion claims, then surely to God we should hear what it should do so that we can get on with our business. If the government has not done all the nasty things, we will not get any further ahead in any event. So, I suggest it is