

this opinion, but I should have liked the government to take the forward step of making pensions available to persons of sixty-five and over without a means test, and placing the pensions on a contributory basis, in the real sense of that term. Although I have not the figures, I believe that if all incomes above the exempted level had been made subject to a straight tax of 2 per cent, the amount received from this source might have been sufficient to pay the whole shot. I may be wrong in this, but when the bill is before us we shall no doubt have an opportunity to get the information.

At present there are in Canada 320,000 persons in receipt of a monthly pension of \$40—it is \$50 in British Columbia and another province—and all these people have been subjected to the means test. The new legislation is not going to help that class. And among the 380,000 who the Honourable the Minister of National Health and Welfare says will come under the new scheme of pensions payable at age seventy there will be many to whom the pension will be just so much more “pin money.” Is that desirable, with conditions and prices as they are today? And who dare say that the present high prices will not rise? In my opinion prices may be higher next year than they are today. The Civil Service is going to get a raise, the unions are beginning to ask for more money, and I cannot see how prices of goods can remain stationary while wages and salaries are going up.

Despite the present high prices we may look back next year upon 1951 as being not too bad. I say that because, after all, we must differentiate between high prices and inflation. The \$325 million to \$350 million which will go out next year, starting on the 1st of January, may cause a rush of spending that may very well increase inflation, but which certainly will not tend to bring down prices. I believe the cost of living is going to remain high for some time to come. I commend to honourable senators a splendid suggestion which was recently made by the American Federation of Labour, that its members, if given an increase in wages, would be willing to produce more. I think that is the first ray of hope that has been cast on the dark economic situation for some considerable time. Certainly up to the present it has not been a usual thing for a branch of organized labour to promise that it will try to produce more in return for higher wages.

It is also pertinent at this time to say a few words concerning the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, for the Speech from the Throne forecast legislation affecting that body. It is well known that last year the CBC had a deficit of \$242,000 and overspent

the one million dollars provided by parliament during the year. I wonder how far the CBC will go in its extra expenditures if not curbed: The extra expenditures amounted to \$242,000 last year and run to over a million this year, and nobody knows where the end will be. I suggest to honourable senators that before we vote the additional money which the government is asking for the CBC we should consider how much the taxpayers of Canada want to spend on radio. To my mind it is an open question whether the present bureaucracy of the CBC was ever desired or will ever be approved by the vast majority of Canadians. In my opinion the CBC should be made to cut its cloth to fit its suit, and forget about an extra pair of pants. At a later date, when the legislation is before us, I shall have plenty to say about the gross expenditures which to my way of thinking have been made by the CBC without any apparent control whatever.

I wonder how many senators listen to CBC broadcasts. How many heard the broadcast of news this morning, for instance? Those who did were given an example of how the CBC treats parliament. It referred at some length to the question of an office that had been occupied by a former member of the House of Commons, and to the services of a stenographer that had been available to him. You rarely hear anything about the serious minded speeches made in parliament, but any flippant references the CBC usually plays up. Whether the majority of people like that sort of thing I do not know, but I feel that when reporting parliamentary news the CBC should tell the people about some of the really worth-while speeches—for there are quite a lot of those, and a great deal of hard work goes into the preparation of some of them. Of course, I do not expect the CBC to pay attention to any remarks of mine, because I have said too many things not in its favour. I am sure I am off its list, but I think I will be able, when the time comes, to prove that some speeches made over it are subversive.

**Hon. Mr. Barbour:** You are not worrying, are you?

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** I am not worrying a great deal about being left off its list, but I shall save my remarks about the C.B.C. until the measure affecting it comes before us.

I wish to speak for a few moments about the question of price fixing, one of the most popular topics before the people today. I commend the government for the statement in the Speech from the Throne that it intends to do something about the problem. I do not say that the government is backing down on