

Senate and House of Commons Act

not need all these enquiries to know. This is why I say to my colleagues that we have not discharged our responsibilities. We are blaming other bodies for the shortcomings and the ill-effects of the system, to try and get off the hook and we say that it is not us but the commissions of enquiry which make the decisions.

For instance, there was the Glassco Commission on government organization which cost \$2,791,000. The Carter Commission cost \$3,350,000, the Commission on Pilotage, \$1,500,000. The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism which cost \$9 million. This was one of the most expensive commissions. Let us mention also the Royal Commission on farm equipment which cost \$1,500,000 and the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada whose tag price read \$1,900,000. We knew that women were not recognized according to their real value. We did not need all these commissions and that is one of the reasons why we do not deserve an increase in our allowance. In fact we gave to the members of those commissions the money which was earmarked for our increase. We took guys who already had fantastic salaries, who were very well paid and we gave them in addition a lot of money. Doing this we are not assuming our responsibilities. Members of Parliament are in the House to do their job.

It seems to me that we are quite as competent. Among hon. members there are economists and lawyers. There are quite a few lawyers here.

We have accountants among hon. members, but it is not enough. We have to establish other committees and appoint other allegedly more competent individuals. However, since we refused to assume our responsibilities, we do not deserve that raise, even if we need it. Let us do our job and we could then ask for a raise. The people would then be pleased to approve it.

We are asking for better salaries than those of the people, while they must tighten their belts. Poverty is spreading and the number of poor people is increasing at an alarming rate in spite of all kinds of inquiries and recommendations. Family allowances have been at the same level since 1945. Income taxes have increased dishearteningly. Canadians have lost confidence because of the record rise of the cost of living.

The bill also provides for an increase in the salary scale of a great many public servants, and it is unacceptable to increase our allowances in such an unbalanced economy.

If it were only a matter of increasing the allowance of members of Parliament, the proposal might be acceptable, but we take this opportunity to increase the salaries of public servants who should also tighten their belts because, considering the present situation, they are getting a decent income.

We should oppose this increase members of Parliament have been asking for a long time. True, many could use it, but as the economic situation is unhealthy, let us also tighten our belts and, in every possible way, remedy the economic situation in every sector of our society; then, we can be justified in asking for increased allowances.

[Mr. Latulippe.]

With higher unemployment, accumulated deficits, 40 per cent of the people on welfare, the frightful increase in debts and taxes, the right to live is frustrated. The young cannot even find a roof. People cannot build a house without paying "a tribute to Caesar" and they pay their house five or six times over before really owning it.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this House have accepted to remove the ceiling on interest rates and we are now feeling the consequences of this decision. Instead of taking concrete action in favour of the people, we are going against their interests, we exploit people and become accessories to their undeserved poverty. I stand guilty as all others here, but I should not accuse myself because I have always done everything I could in the past to have our crippled economy corrected.

In a civilized society, the first right of every citizen is the right to live. This is the first right which should be protected by law. It is a matter of elementary justice to all citizens but when they are no longer able to build their own home, can we say that they have access to justice and the safeguards of human dignity? These laws and regulations work instead against the individual's well-being and they can only be used to exploit the individual.

• (3:20 p.m.)

Production of goods and services is meant for adults, and should be divided into consumption and capitalization. Excessive capitalization has been made possible, but not so consumption. We produce a lot more than we consume; we capitalize 25 times more than we ought to. And all this is realized by members who have not done their job.

There is the reason for a well balanced economy, through simple means geared to economic facts and realities. We have not adjusted our economy to the physical realities and possibilities of this country. We have worked against that; we have completely unbalanced the economy. So, we have not done our duty. We should legislate so that goods and services satisfy the needs of the people, and if we achieved this, citizens would be glad to pay their servants adequately. Services are not appropriate to needs. Instead of helping people, of being of service to them, huge developments exploit them. This is where we have generally directed our efforts and we are getting the results that we deserve.

Nations must develop an awareness of national problems and of conditions necessary to their solution. Have we done it? Problems must be defined and localized. We have problems which were defined and localized by commissions of all kinds. All their wise recommendations which we should have proposed ourselves but had proposed by others, we have never put into practice.

We have not done our job. Agencies produced reports and carried out investigations of all kinds to pinpoint poverty and unemployment and we are still worse off than ever. Malaise and dissatisfaction prevail in every walk of life. Members of Parliament and ministers do not seem prepared to face their responsibilities.