

Family Allowances Act, 1973

Mr. Collenette: No, there is no way of changing it, as far as I am concerned. The basic universality is intact, but there can be some targeting within that universality.

An Hon. Member: That sounds like pretty twisted logic to me.

Mr. Collenette: The Hon. Members opposite talk about my twisted logic. If you read the "blues" and see what the Hon. Member for Prince Albert said, you will realize those who are twisting logic are not on this side of the House. This legislation is part of a strategy to bring inflation down. A few moments ago, before the Hon. Members opposite started to ridicule me on the whole question of selectivity and universality, they said, "But inflation is not coming down". Where have they been living for the last six months?

An Hon. Member: In a depression.

Mr. Collenette: Have they not been looking at the consumer price index, the leading indicators in Canadian society, to see that the six and five program is an absolute success? The battle is being won, but they cannot recognize it because they do not want to recognize it. The Hon. Members opposite know full well that in the 12 month period between June 28, 1982 and June 28, 1983, one year after the six and five program was announced, inflation will be well within the six per cent guidelines. In fact, I believe it was the Governor of the Bank of Canada who made a statement the other day saying that for the last three months the real inflation rate has been running at about 8.5 per cent. We still have a long way to go until next June, and inflation is falling extremely rapidly.

Mr. Deans: Two point two million people are unemployed.

Mr. Collenette: Yes, there are 2.2 million people unemployed, but what is going to get them back to work? A sound economy—

An Hon. Member: One point four million unemployed.

Mr. Collenette: —the elimination of inflation, and the ability to invest in the country. That is what will get this country going again. And the foundation of the strategy to get Canadians working has to be to get inflation down. And it is working. I hope, as do many, that the Government will be building on the six and five program to help stimulate employment further, and I would invite the Hon. Members to sit here for the next few weeks, perhaps into the new year, when they will see the true ambit of the strategy, which is, first, to eliminate inflation, or to reduce it significantly, and to build upon that by investment in the kinds of measures announced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) on October 27, so that jobs are created and we can look forward to better times.

To say that this Bill which we have before us is a philosophical debate on the notion of universality in social programs versus selectivity, is completely misleading. It is not deliberate, I know, because the Members of the NDP do not know any better.

I would invite my colleagues who are present to support this Bill. I hope that in the next few hours, when those in the NDP retire for the evening, they may think this matter through more fully and look, perhaps, at the "blues" of the Hon. Member for Prince Albert to see the faulty logic. Because inflation is coming down. This Bill, and the other Bills which are before the House, are an essential ingredient in getting inflation down. If the Hon. Members opposite were true Canadians, concerned about restructuring the economy, rebuilding the economy, having an economic revival in this country, they would embrace this program, as Canadians have done, in order to build a better future. But I do not think the Members of the New Democratic Party want to build a better future because they are wallowing in the distress of today and the ideas of yesterday and that, Mr. Speaker, is the total sum of the history and compartment of the NDP in this country. That is the reason they have never held power at the national level.

• (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

[*English*]

HEALTH—FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION.
(B) INCREASE IN TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, last Friday, November 26, the National Office of Planned Parenthood was phoned by an official of the Department of National Health and Welfare and informed that their funding for 1983-84 would not be the \$250,000 as promised, but would be \$130,000, a 48 per cent reduction. This is a devastating blow to the organization which provides a link to 50 provincial and municipal organizations, organizes educational conferences, publishes a journal, and had planned this year a major media campaign aimed at young people.

The timing of the cutback is ironic in view of the fact that the Health Promotion Branch of the Department recently conducted a survey of public health nurses to ascertain their views on major health concerns. These concerns were teenage pregnancies, obesity and drug and alcohol abuse, in that order of priority. At a time when teenage pregnancies are of major concern—as I said in the House the other day, over 1,000 teenagers a week including many 13 and 14 year olds are becoming pregnant—the funding for this type of program should be expanded, not reduced.

When I raised this in the House, Mr. Speaker, in fairness to the Minister, I really do not think she could have understood my question because her answer made no rational sense