

on the order paper a notice of motion recommending a basic old age pension of \$150 per month. I find myself in support of the increased income supplement instituted by the British Columbia government and deplore the legalistic quibbling of the federal government as to the obligation to share under the Canadian Assistance Plan.

Perhaps a few words about our place in confederation might not be amiss at this time. During the recent election campaign the touring media fell into a recurring habit, when in British Columbia, of searching for B.C. separatists. As far as I am concerned, separatism in British Columbia is a figment of the imagination of eastern writers. The central government, and particularly the present one, give us sufficient provocation, but our hearts are loyal and will remain so. We do, however, reserve the right to point out the inequities of the federal government. We look for an even-handedness by the central authority and recently have felt that it has been lacking.

A recent example of this is the government policy or lack of policy regarding federal properties in urban areas. Thirteen days before the last election, the government found itself able to purchase some \$30 million worth of privately held land in the city of Toronto to be used for the enjoyment of the people of that city. In June the city of Victoria had been treated quite differently. A parcel of land wanted by the city for use as a waterfront park but owned by the federal government was sold, not given to the city by the federal government, at \$50,000 an acre, \$20,000 cash, the remainder on a mortgage at 9 per cent interest. I would not want you to be under any misapprehension. We do not wish the people of Toronto to be deprived of a park if it is the policy of this government to give parks to cities, and we do not mind the government refusing us if it is government policy to refuse people when they ask for Crown land for parks, but to give land on the one hand and refuse it on the other while charging our taxpayers usurious interest rates offends our sense of fairness.

When I suggested to the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) that we would like to be treated in the same fashion as Toronto, the answer was that the Toronto land was to be a national park. To me this conjures up visions of "Smokey the Bear" patrolling the southern end of Bay Street, but to the overburdened taxpayers of Victoria paying high interest rates to their own government it is not funny.

I think this uneven-handedness has been exemplified by the operations of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. It was our understanding that regions having serious unemployment problems might reasonably expect to qualify for economic expansion. British Columbia had 61,000 unemployed in September, 1972, as against a comparable national figure of 459,000; that is, B.C. had 13½ per cent of the nation's unemployed. To alleviate the distress, DREE had at that time allotted 1.4 per cent of its funds to British Columbia. The figures speak for themselves. We had 13½ per cent of the illness and received 1.4 per cent of the medicine. The patient can hardly be blamed for feeling neglected.

I should like to point out as well that recent figures show that the metropolitan region of Vancouver has for eight months of the last 12 had the highest unemployment

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rate in all of Canada, and again this month it is the highest. Why, in B.C., we are only to be allowed to have a designated region several hundred miles away from this great pool of unemployment is beyond me. I spoke of 13½ per cent unemployment in September and the treatment we got. I believe that it was just about the time of the release of these figures that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) made his contribution to the national debate by announcing that henceforth the sale of firecrackers would be prohibited. The script appeared to have been written by T. S. Eliot and the establishment had apparently decided that the government would go out, not with a bang, but with a whimper. Perhaps the hon. member for Verdun supplies the second half of the quotation, which is from what could be the litany of the present regime, the Hollow Men: "We are the hollow men, we are the stuffed men, leaning together."

I hope that my remarks may have explained to this House why and how British Columbia, particularly Vancouver Island and specifically Victoria, has come to a state of disenchantment with this government. As I said at the beginning, each constituency is different and each constituency has its problems. The problem is not that the majority have been silent but that this government has not been listening.

So, here we are in this House, at a crucial time in our history. The other day we heard the leader of the New Democratic Party give his familiar criticism of corporations. It was like old times for me. In British Columbia we have not heard much about corporate welfare bums since the NDP became owners of a railway, a hydro monopoly, one of the largest ferry fleets in the world and other corporations. This appears not only to qualify them as corporate owners, but even worse, as conglomerate owners, and the word "conglomerate" is even worse than the word "Corporation" in the NDP lexicon, I believe. At the same time, Mr. Barrett announced that he was providing government funds to pay for up to one-third of the cost of building an automobile plant if the foreign corporation would build it in British Columbia. On top of their other acquisitions, of course, they have \$500 million in the bank. The silence on the subject out there has become deafening since the B.C. NDP government decided to practice a little ideological nepotism by granting a contract to a Manitoba corporation, NDP sponsored, to supply buses to their corporation, B.C. Hydro.

The interesting part is that apparently public tendering is passé with the NDP when in office. The Minister of Municipal Affairs in British Columbia was in a hurry and said; "I'm not going to horse around with tendering." In British Columbia, the taxpayers will never know how much these two NDP corporations have ripped off them. So I wish to thank the member for York South (Mr. Lewis) for his nostalgic trip down memory lane, back to the high ideals and piety of the NDP when out of office.

The election results have transformed the Prime Minister into a modern day Uriah Heep, and the leader of the New Democratic Party has enjoyed a position of kingmaker for the last two months. If he now makes the wrong decision they may be the last enjoyable months he will have for a long time. Perhaps I might quote what Uriah Heep said to another David: