

However, we are still no closer to a solution to the over-all problem of farm income than we were when this program was commenced. We are still facing the same basic questions, and I think this demonstrates the fact that the solution to our farming problems does not rest with any one, single program. Rather, what we need is a variety of programs. We need more than simply a farm credit program, quite apart from the inadequacy of the present legislation, as I mentioned a few minutes ago. What we need is a farm credit program that has a proper thrust and focus, one that is directed toward ensuring that farmers have adequate income, that they have adequate prices, that their costs are kept under some sort of reasonable control. All of these elements are required if we are to produce an adequate solution to our farming problems.

To translate this idea into mathematical terms, two times nothing ends up as nothing. Two times nothing times nothing still ends up as nothing, as one big zero. Even with an adequate farm credit program we would not be brought closer to any basic solution to our farming problems. A farm credit program can only do the job expected of it if it is developed in concert with an adequate income program, an adequate pricing program, a program that will ensure that our farmers are able to secure their goods and materials at reasonable cost and that adequate services will be available to them.

I see it is five o'clock, Mr. Speaker, and that you are pressing forward in your chair. Might I call it five o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Would the hon. member also adjourn the debate?

Mr. Burton: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton)—Manpower—Local Initiatives Program—Funds allocated, amounts spent, applications received, by provinces; the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg)—Transport—Proposed linking of Kootenay and Elk railway to U.S. line—Request for action to prevent movement of coal to U.S. ports.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions and public bills.

Improvement Program for Aged

[English]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGE

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SITUATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should give immediate consideration to initiating an Opportunities for Age program designed to improve the health, economic, occupational, recreational, social and cultural opportunities of the senior citizens of Canada, and that in the organization and administration of such a program the senior citizens' associations be consulted and involved.

• (1700)

He said: Mr. Speaker, having in mind the non-political nature of what I propose and the great deal of support it has received from senior citizens and their organizations in many parts of the country as well, I might add, as having in mind the indication of interest and in some cases support from members of the present government, I intend to make my presentation of this proposal very brief. I shall urge my colleagues to allow it to proceed for detailed consideration to the appropriate committee, which in this case I would think would be the Committee on National Health and Welfare.

In brief, what this proposal calls for is the adoption and utilization of the same principle parliament has applied in respect of opportunities for youth. This would be applied in an appropriate way to opportunities for the aged. There is no doubt in my mind that if this were done, and I believe something of this nature is already under consideration by the government, it would result in great benefit not only to many of our senior citizens who have a wealth of experience not being utilized in employment or occupation, but also to the many communities in which these people reside.

In my opinion, and I am sure many other hon. members share it, there is both the need and opportunity in Canada at this time to improve the living as well as the economic condition of our senior citizens. I especially urge old age pension and superannuate organizations to play a part in developing the administration of a federally initiated program of this type to combat the isolation of the older people. This would have a beneficial result to the community as well as to the people concerned. This would be particularly so if, in line with the proposed opportunities for the aged occupational program, we had a substantial increase in the basic old age pension such as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and myself have urged for many months. We should increase the basic pension to at least \$150 per month. When we mention that figure of \$150 per month today, let us keep in mind that the Canadian dollar, as a result of inflation, has lost almost half its purchasing power of 1950. This gives a better perspective as to the value of \$150 old age security pension.

Among the senior citizens of Canada there are a million men and women with ability, experience and a desire to be of use to themselves and others. Their potential