

● (2110)

Mr. Speaker, a 7 per cent reduction in the income of members of parliament during 1976 is acceptable because this is only affecting 264 families, but a reduction in family allowances directly affects a huge number of families, and this is more serious.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the members have accepted that their income, their expense account be reduced by 7 per cent since last July, when Bill C-81 was passed and every member gives back \$58.33 to the federal Treasury each month. Did the newspapers report that fact to the people? Were the people told on television that the members of parliament were setting the good example? Did the radio stations broadcast that information? Never. If our income had increased by 2 per cent, that increase would have made the headlines on the newspapers: "Members of Parliament are having it good, they increase their income by 2 per cent". We accepted to make a sacrifice to set a good example but nobody mentions it. Furthermore, a bill is introduced to reduce the income of our families, of those who accept to bring up children, and perhaps somebody will say that this is a scandal.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met at least 1,000 people in my riding. I attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies, when everyone displayed a reverent silence, following the church service. In the evening, I met about 500 mothers, members of the Daughters of Isobel Order. We did not meet just for fun, we met to think about the future of our country, about the role of the mothers and, Mr. Speaker, we came to the conclusion that we must take the necessary steps to guarantee them a sufficient income. They have an important role to play in our country because without them, there will be not Canada.

The rights of the mothers, those who accept to give birth, must be recognized with legislation. We must make sure that they will not fear tomorrow, that they will have enough clothing or enough money to buy food for their offsprings.

However, if our country was lacking natural resources, one could say: We must share, we must deny ourselves for one another, but this is not the case. Mr. Speaker, in our country, we are presently punishing those who produce, he or she who gets up early in the morning to go and work for 10, 15 or 20 hours, we punish these persons more than the ones who refuse to go to work. Let us take the case of the dairy producers in Canada. I do not want to indulge in petty politics but I would like us to be realistic. Those people have been managing their businesses for years, looking for ways to improve them, to make them more profitable, to provide a livelihood to their small communities. Automatically, they had to expand with time, the business was sound, with a climate favourable to farming entrepreneurship. But now we have a policy punishing those who produce. Not only are they punished, but revoltingly the milk they produce is not paid, and on top of that they incur a penalty for producing.

This is totally irrational, when it is known for a fact that even in this country there are families and small children that are not provided on a daily basis with enough food to fill their stomachs. Some may point to Christ saying that there will

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always be poor people among us. But he never said to the House of Commons; Thou shall enact laws to be poor people. We must not make Christ lie. What is our role? It is to look after those people, those groups of Canadians who do not have the talents, the opportunity to get out of a situation which we might not accept ourselves. What is our role? It is to accept what Providence sends us, to distribute it in a fair way satisfactory to the people.

Admittedly, we are facing difficult times, but those who lived through the 30's should remember those years. I remember something that happened on October 29, 1932 when I had nothing to eat in my hut. I remember I had the good fortune to see a deer two acres away from my house. I had a gun, and I got it. But one hour later came a game warden, asking if I had a permit. I said yes, my permit is being able to get the game Providence sends me. He told me: I have to seize your deer, because you have no permit. Well, I was not a revolutionary, but this I answered: "My friend, I don't know you. You may have authority, but I will tell you this much: The man who will carry the deer, away, the man who will take it away from my stomach, he isn't born yet. Do you understand?" Well, we understood each other, and finally he decided to leave it there. I shared it with the families around, because it was a gift of God. So we must now do the same thing.

Today, circumstances have it that I am here as a member of this House, like every other member, to speak and make laws in the name of my fellow citizens, in the name of Canadians. We must always make laws to ensure minimum of security to the smallest person in our society. Let others be millionaires, that does not matter as long as the smallest in society is assured of the bare essentials. Canada can do that.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept that family allowances are not indexed to the cost of living. Surely there are numbers of other ways to practice restraint other than at the expenses of Canadian families. The government should refer to the Auditor General's reports which I had the opportunity to read since I came to this House. The Auditor General of Canada has made suggestions year after year to indicate to the government where there is squandering, where savings could be made, but the government has failed to act upon them. The Auditor General does mention in his reports: "I do not have the necessary staff to work more efficiently." And he has been requesting additional staff to enable him to perform a truly responsible work and ensure an adequate management of our national affairs in co-operation with the government. It is stated in the Speech from the Throne that the government is willing to grant additional staff to enable the Auditor General of Canada to do his work in the best interests of the nation without consideration for the government.

● (2120)

Mr. Speaker, I cannot bear the sight of so many young men and women whom we have raised, educated, clothed and sheltered, their arms full of diplomas wander from one Manpower centre to another. Some of them call on the personnel directors of various companies and are given this answer: Sir,