

The Budget

will immediately raise the board and lodging rates veterans have to pay. There is no maximum. That \$240 and \$420 are not maximums.

The government deleted the heavy house cleaning allowance. It was twice a year. Even if they cut it down to once it would be all right. All of us can remember when our mothers house cleaned in the spring and fall.

The whole family had to pitch in and work. My dad washed the ceilings. The kids had to clean up the basement and wash walls. We all had to do it. But how is a 70 year old or 80 year old veteran who wants to stay out of long-term home care supposed to do that heavy house cleaning? The government kept the light house cleaning. He or his spouse could do some of that, or perhaps both, or get the kids in to help. When it comes to washing walls and ceilings, I do not want to see an 80 year old veteran trying to get up a ladder to wash a ceiling.

• (1610)

Then there is cleaning the drapes. Have you ever sent drapes to a dry cleaner? Dry cleaning is eliminated too. If you do your drapes once a year you know what the bill is like. Also cleaning attics, basements, garages and/or outbuildings. By the way, would you believe there are still places in Canada where they have certain kinds of outbuildings; some are one holers and some are two holers. Any home improvements, including stripping and sanding of floors, replacing and laying new carpet and chimney cleaning. Do you want to see a veteran in his seventies trying to clean his own chimney?

Good God, what are they doing? What do they think they are doing? Better still, why do they not think about what they are doing?

All parties and every member of this House since 1945 have said and agreed that we could never fully repay them. How come this government and this Parliament are going quietly—a lot of other members and I are not going to be quiet—to acquiesce to this kind of cheap chiselling on people whom we have agreed for five decades we can never fully repay? What in God's name is the government doing?

I have a document that was sent to the Regional Director General of Operations of the Pacific in Vancouver. I do not blame civil servants; they have their orders to implement government policy. When veterans have called and said "well, how come you did not tell us

before", they have said it was because they did not know it was in the budget. There was no advance warning.

I want to conclude by referring to the increases. Yesterday the minister tried to say there were no cuts. I sent my cat to the vet the other day and we got him cut. I can tell my neighbours that that cat ain't cut. No matter which way you cut it, the veterans have an increase in their board and lodging and they have a decrease in the veterans independence program. If that ain't a cut, I never saw a cut cat in my life.

This country has no business chiselling in this area. In hundreds of other places people are making over \$86,000 a year and get all the benefit of the new breaks in the RRSPs. I guess them that has gets.

I want to say that we are going to make sure that every veteran in every branch of the Legion and Army, Navy and Air Force veterans all over this country knows about this. They do not have the details. We are going to give it to them, and then they can give it to this government. I hope if the government does nothing else about this stupid budget, it will at least withdraw the provisions regarding the veterans of Canada.

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to a number of things my colleague spoke about. I must say that I hope his passionate plea on behalf of veterans does not go unnoticed across Canada. I think it was eloquent and certainly put forward very clearly what is being done to the veterans and the fact that this country owes them so much.

I want to go back and talk about a couple of other things he mentioned: the question of interest rates, inflation and the dollar. The government keeps saying it has to jack up the interest rate to bring down inflation.

Somehow I got mixed up. I thought really half the problem of pushing up inflation is high interest rates. I will use one example. In housing right now interest rates are at 13.5 per cent instead of the 10 per cent that the Minister of Finance promised a year ago. This means that on a \$100,000 mortgage monthly payments are \$250 more. That is inflation, \$250 more. The person has to earn nearly \$500 to have \$250 in his pocket. He has got to demand \$500 more in wages. That is inflation.

My feeling is that inflation is being caused by the high interest rate policy. The government can continue to jack it up to 20 per cent, but it is not going to bring down