

The Address—Mr. Godin

Mothers have also worked in war factories where they proved just as skilful with the soldering iron as with the laundry iron. There are also mothers who gave to their country their sons who now fill war cemeteries. Some thought should also be given to the men. The oldest started working at 15 years of age for 50 cents a day. They failed with everything they tried between 1929 and 1939. They allowed union dues to be deducted from their salaries for 30 years, and often these only served to pay fraudulent salaries to labour leaders. There are men who paid taxes all their lives; others have been paying for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that if a member of parliament is entitled to a \$2,000 a year pension after sitting in this house for three parliaments and being generously paid for it, the worker who has helped to develop this country for 50 years of his life is entitled to a pension of \$1,200 per year.

When those old people get a pension then we shall make room for younger workers. It must not be forgotten that, at present, our youth is flouted throughout Canada, caught as it is between the government which requires education and industry which calls for experience. Having obtained diplomas, our young people try to get jobs in industry only to find that experience is required of them; on the other hand, the government tells them: If you are not working, it is because you do not have enough education. From pillar to post, from post to pillar. It is not the first time that that game is played in this world.

On the other hand, I was pleased to find in the speech from the throne that the government wants to look into the matter of salaries and working conditions.

That makes me very happy. I hope the citizens of the constituency of Portneuf will benefit from it, because some industries of my riding pay their employees, who are married men, only 80 cents an hour.

In Canada, some young people go without jobs, while others work too much. I am speaking of children who have to support their family. There are children who have to work while others sleep, play and study. Some children must work to support their family and they do so at the risk of jeopardizing their future. We have the best example of this deplorable situation right here in the house, our pages.

I have noticed that those children go to school at nine in the morning and work here from half past twelve until six and from

eight to ten at night. Last week, at ten forty-five, they were still here. The next morning, while we, members of parliament, were sleeping in, those children were in school.

● (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I regret that the future Minister of Manpower (Mr. Marchand) is not in his seat, because I would ask him to do something about those children. They are not the only ones, there are cases similar to theirs throughout Canada. If the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) cannot think of anything better than putting those youngsters to work to help mothers of large families or needy families I would advise him to be guided by the history of the tribes that inhabited northern Canada before our ancestors came here. As long as family allowances are not adjusted to the cost of living index, it is impossible also to talk about justice because too many of our families now have to do without the strict minimum. Talking about family allowances, they should be adjusted to the cost of living index. To hasten the readjustment, I would advise the government to use the indemnity granted to members of this house as a basis for determining when to stop raising family allowances. Let them take a look at what a member was getting in 1945 and how much he is paid today, in 1966, and then they can set the family allowance rates accordingly. I am quite sure that this would make all Canadian mothers happy.

Now, may I move an amendment. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise):

That the amendment be amended by deleting the period at the end thereof and by adding:

"and have not taken the steps required for an immediate increase in the family allowances based on the cost of living index."

I also noticed that the government intends to develop agriculture. Mr. Speaker, might I point out that, in order to do so, the farmers do not need the government. The farmers proved they could manage their business from 1940 to 1950. What they want is prices and markets for their produce.

On the other hand, we need the government very much where finance is concerned. On this I insist: the government must, through the Bank of Canada, make loans to the provinces, municipalities and school boards. It may be that several ministers of our "belle province" have already committed