

I would also like to congratulate my colleague Senator Grosart on his enlightening explanation, and Senator Croll, who did very well in fighting his own war.

In making my short observations, I do not rise to be unduly critical of what the Government of the day is doing to help the needy people of this country. I simply rise to be somewhat critical of the things that will be done in the future and the way in which they will be done.

Bill C-251 has some good in its contents. It reminds me of the mini-jupe of today, exposing enough to create interest and leaving much to the imagination.

We are told that approximately 900,000 people in this country are recipients of Old Age Security payments, and that approximately 500,000—according to what I have read in the reports of the other place—will receive the full benefit of the extra \$30 per month. It occurs to me that when the screening machine is put into operation at the local, provincial and federal levels, this 500,000 figure will be reduced. Senator Croll called it a new concept in respect of the means test, but I would say that is only adding another evil to the old concepts.

Honourable senators, I do not for one moment advocate that the extra \$30 should be paid across the board to everyone. No one disagrees that the needy should receive the extra allowance. However, my worries are based on how the selection will be made in some areas—Who and who will not qualify?

The Government spokesman in the other place told us that it will be very simple. His observations appear on many pages in *Hansard* of the other place. He says it is a very simple test: just fill out a simple and easy form, and that is it—no postage stamp required.

Under our present way of living and the day-by-day approach of socialism and bureaucratic administration, whether we want to admit it or not, many forms of various types have to be filled in, in order to survive. On many occasions the filling in of a form is like placing a rope around your neck—there is usually someone at the other end to pull on it. This is why we have so much discrimination in our social services and so many sad cases of which many examples could be given.

For many years I have felt very sorry that our aged people have become the victims of politicians and that a price tag is put around their necks at election time. Are we not at this

moment placing a two-faced tag on their heads?

The minister may have good intentions and may be sincere—and there is no doubt that he is sincere in his thinking—but once the bureaucratic machine is in operation he will not have very much to say. New victims will be created daily. Problems and discussions and confusion will arise. Some may even be punished, and those who will fall in this field of persecution will be the honest and conscientious old people who, throughout their lives, have thought seriously of their old age: people who have put aside a few dollars; people who have sacrificed all their lives and built themselves a little home; people who have done without many things they needed in order to provide themselves with a little income upon which to retire. They too will have to fill in a form.

I am asking you, honourable senators: Is that the reward which the aged are to expect from their Government for all their years of good behaviour? For good behaviour, are they not entitled to a little better or a little more than a neighbour who has lived a jolly life, without a care for anyone? What about the veterans who spared nothing, who were even ready to give their lives to save our democracy? They will also have to fill out this little form. Believe me, much more could be said about it.

Another thing: Are we not going to encourage the aged to stop being of good behaviour, and ask themselves, "Why should I be working? Why should I earn a few dollars after retirement if it is going to be taken away, or I am going to be punished for it?" Will the young people say, "Why should I save money for my old age, because it might be taken away from me by filling in this simple, little form?" These are some of the things I am worried about.

Will our older people continue for a long time to be the victims of local social assistance patronage, provincial administration, confusion and federal dictatorial meddling? Today, usually when a man receives \$10 assistance from one group it is taken away immediately by another group which can always find a reason for doing so. By just filling in this easy little form, are we going to better the situation? Will it prevent the hundreds of Government and partisan employees from checking the colour of your eyes after this easy little form is filled in?

Many pieces of legislation were passed this year which, on the surface, appear to be a movement in the right direction, but in sev-