

Suggested Pension Payment Corrections

the government ought to be doing as Mr. Baetz has proposed. He said that among social rights none was more important than that to an adequate income. To use his words—

We should build this socio-economic goal into our value system now. The method of administering the guaranteed income can be worked out later. If necessary, it can be introduced in stages.

Mr. Speaker, there are methods today, well known to economists, which would enable every person in this country to receive the income which he could justifiably expect. I am sure even supporters of the government realize that there is a real necessity to move forward along these lines if we are not to fall back to a state in which there are more people on relief and on the dole than there are people working. We must face reality and consider other methods of financing our society than those in use today.

The proposition advanced by Mr. Baetz is that all Canadians have a right to an income sufficient for an adequate standard of physical and social wellbeing. I suggest no one in this house would disagree in principle with that statement but I am certain a great many would resent the bringing about of any great improvement in the standards of those on low incomes. They would prefer to be the champions of people in the high income brackets rather than lower themselves to the extent of taking part in an effort to end the poverty as we know it.

Mr. Baetz further stated:

Every Canadian cannot provide for all his needs in our complicated society by his own efforts, or through private programs.

This is self-evident but nothing has been done about it effectively, though many plans have been brought in and many economists have drawn up programs. The government has not possessed the fortitude to take action of a meaningful kind to deal with poverty as we have known it for the past number of years.

The last extract I should like to quote is this: Mr. Baetz says the recommendation of the Canadian Welfare Council is based on the conviction that an assurance of adequate income can improve the productivity of people and assist in the development of our country.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. It being ten o'clock, it is my duty to inform the house that pursuant to paragraph 11 of Standing Order 58 proceedings on the motion are considered to have expired.

[Mr. Skoberg.]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved:

LABOUR CONDITIONS—ALTERNATIVE TO COMPENSATE FOR CANCELLED WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Because my question last week was ruled out of order, I am pleased to take advantage of this opportunity to elaborate on some of the ideas I tried to raise at that time.

I find the question period very useful and exciting. However, I sometimes suspect that between the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) and Mr. Speaker, there is some kind of collusion, by means of which the physical fitness of backbenchers is somehow to be improved by their having to bob up and down many times a day. I do not object to this, because it is about the only exercise I get since becoming a Member of Parliament.

While it is unusual for me to be recognized during the question period, it is not at all unusual for me to be ruled out of order. That is why I am here tonight to discuss two items. On March 12, as reported at page 6526 of *Hansard* I put a question as follows:

Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with the critical unemployment situation and recent reports to the government by the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. Has the government any alternatives to recommend with respect to the unilateral cancellation of winter works projects in order to assist municipalities in the area of water utility, pollution control and housing projects.

The record continues:

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking a general question which can only be answered by a statement on motions.

• (10:00 p.m.)

Virtually all the nine municipalities I represent have protested to me about the cancellation of the winter works program. I agree with Mr. Speaker that this is a subject for a statement on motions. Last fall when the winter works question was highly current and we heard from the government some vague mutterings about manpower training schemes and regional development, what we needed then—and we need it even more now—was some forthright statement by the government as to what possible alternative it had to propose, having scrapped one program without