

*Canada Pension Plan (No. 2)*

got their allowances, it was thought appropriate to eliminate the monthly increase of \$9.46 that the federal government had granted them. They could therefore claim that they are never better off at any rate. What is given by one hand is taken away by the other.

Mr. Speaker, the people are right. It is up to us to realize it and to act accordingly. We are here to represent the people. If the people understand the millionaires and the large corporation presidents and directors, they also understand the citizens without job or capital and that segment of the population deserves all our attention.

I congratulate the present Liberal government which was the sponsor of the main legislation regarding pensions and family allowances at the request, of course, of the Social Credit Party which has been recommending the payment of these allowances for many years as well as their increase in various instances.

Today the question is whether or not we go far enough in those areas particularly if we intend to be fair by raising pensions, allowances and all kind of subsidies. Let us not forget—it is not my opinion but that of the population—despite all the increases we stay at the same point. The more we receive the more prices rise and we do not progress and only regress from one year to another.

Since 1958, Mr. Speaker, we have been talking about inflation. All university graduates are racking their brains to find formulas likely to satisfy the people, to control inflation, check unemployment and eliminate poverty. But despite all the sincerity and goodwill of those experts who manage the country and the large corporations we go backward instead of forward in every field related to poverty, unemployment and inflation.

Even if this is a universal problem it is one more reason to try to find a remedy. Because if it is a problem, we must correct it. For that we have to start somewhere, then why not here in Canada?

It was in 1934 during the international crisis of the 30's that the Bank of Canada was created with the support of American and European financial experts following many royal enquiries. We are living through another international crisis in 1973, forty years later, after World War II, and the prosperous years from 1945 to 1958, and we are still facing inflation, unemployment and poverty. Do we have to wait for another world war to recover our balance in Canada?

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the government will find the solution to the present national crisis, before we come to the last solution, unwished for by the population.

Instead of being influenced by the international situation, let us see what can be done here for the population in order to achieve an atmosphere of peace, goodwill and economic balance between big and small, between individuals, families, and companies, big, medium, and small. While keeping everyone in his present position, even the Ministers of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Gray), of Finance (Mr. Turner) and of National Health and Welfare, it would be possible to restore the national economic equilibrium for individuals, by a close study of the following four points which are the popular expression of everyday needs:

[Mr. Allard.]

1. Family heads and single persons earn today equal salary for equal work.

2. Mothers today earn no salary for their housework.

3. Children and students are costly today and have no regular income.

4. Companies today make the highest profits and are taxed less than individuals.

● (1610)

Mr. Speaker, here is what could be used as a basis by the greatest scientists and university graduates in all their calculations to put some order at last between incomes, expenses and profits, between taxes—and reserves, between citizens, families and companies, between employers, employees and dependent citizens without work or capital, in order to provide them with a basic income, to provide them with at least economic, individual and family security, according to their particular case, in the center of our national economy which should respect life and the quality of life for any citizen, having regard to his language, race, religion, nationality, education, health or profession, and especially his age if he is too young or too old to look after himself.

Mr. Speaker, considering that situation, in spite of all the efforts of this government to iron out the difficulties in that field, I believe it is necessary at this stage of negotiations and of the drafting of legislation to come to a stop, to avail ourselves of the royal boards of inquiry, to analyze openly the particular goals that are to be reached in order to initiate the real national economic policy that will improve the quality of life for every Canadian.

Considering our outstanding national production, it should be possible to do much better than guaranteeing more than \$20 a month to children from birth to majority, at 18 when everyone can earn his living, unless he would rather keep on studying so as to become a more informed and better educated citizen within society.

And even as a student providing services to society, does he not deserve a quality of life corresponding to his vital obligations and this strictly from a financial and monetary point of view, that is as far as a guaranteed personal income is concerned?

This is, Mr. Speaker, what should be established during our consideration of the amendments to Bill C-190 and Bill C-224 advocating increases in pensions, grants and allowances and their escalation based on the cost of living, especially if we want those who are asking for it to be satisfied.

Despite increased poverty, companies are developing. This is another word currently heard. I have to quote once again from a statement made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare during the speech he delivered on January 11, in the early days of this session. On page 201 of *Hansard*, we find this very wise comment and I quote:

It is obvious that desirable goals whatever they may be, whether in the public or private sector, cannot be reached without the necessary resources. We have not discovered yet a magic wand or an alchemical formula allowing us to reach economical or social objectives effortlessly.

The government is forever torn between the natural reluctance of Canadians when faced with a tax increase,