Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

which have resulted in substantially increased benefits for a large number of Canadian families. In 1949, for example, the decreasing rates affecting all children over the fourth child in the family were removed. For example, under the pre-1949 set-up the fifth child lost out on a dollar a month, the sixth and seventh children lost $2 a month each and every child above the seventh child lost $3 each.

These decreasing rates were abolished in 1949. Again in 1957 substantial changes were made in the rates of benefits under the program. Until 1957 the rates were $5 a month for children under six, $6 a month for children 6 to 10, $7 a month for children 10 to 13, and $8 a month for children 13 to 16. In 1957, the $5 and $7 a month rates were changed to $6 and $8 respectively.

Then again in 1964 additions were made to the program providing for the payment of $10 per month for children 16 and 17 years who were attending school or who because of physical or mental impairment were prevented from doing so. An additional 400,000 children are now benefiting from these extended allowances, excluding the province of Quebec, where a schooling allowance program is in operation. The federal government turns over to Quebec the moneys to cover the actual cost of that program. Approximately 137,000 children in Quebec benefit from these allowances.

While the department is continually studying ways of improving programs of this kind, the question of priorities must also be borne in mind. For example, the demands on the federal treasury for such proposals as the guaranteed income supplement, now before the house, as well as for medicare, the Canada Assistance Plan, education and so on are very heavy and it is a question of determining which areas or fields of concern should be given priority.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, may I add the word.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member before he says the word he referred to.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.24 p.m.