

Time Allocation

will get the full indexation on the supplement as well as the value of the full indexation of the basic pension. They will not suffer any decrease in their benefits. All pensioners will receive an increase in their pension as compared to the amount they receive this year. All pensioners, including those with excellent means and income, will receive an increase in their pension cheque in January, but it will be slightly less than anticipated. A key factor in this debate is that the Government has ensured protection for those most in need. This is the objective of the redistribution which we have always fought for.

[Translation]

In fact, the 6 and 5 program to be implemented by Bill C-131 must be accepted in order to stabilize the effects of the fight against inflation. And I think this is something the Members of the Opposition do not want. The Progressive Conservatives supported the 6 and 5 program to fight inflation, to cut it in half so that 12 per cent and 10 per cent will become 6 and 5, if everyone does his share. It means pensioners with adequate incomes, women with children who are able to manage, and that is only one-third of this group, taxpayers, Members of Parliament and Ministers. Our own salaries have been cut, and many Canadians are starting to follow our example and support this policy. In fact, we may be seeing the beginning of a success story. Inflation started to drop last July, and what is needed now is a joint national effort. The Official Opposition said yes, we agree with the 6 and 5 program. They agreed at first.

However, when it comes to areas where implementation of 6 and 5 is not as easy and where conversely, it is very easy to indulge in petty politics, then the Opposition all of a sudden becomes very stand-offish and will not have anything to do with these aspects of the program. It only wants to go along with the easy parts of the program. It has done nothing to promote the program and that doesn't need an Act of Parliament, and I am referring to the program that our Government Members and our Ministers and of course the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) are publicizing across Canada at meetings where they are urging co-operation by employers and employees and unions, many of whom have made a tremendous effort. As a result, a start has been made with reducing inflation and we did not necessarily need an Act of Parliament to achieve this. Now that programs are being used to continue the fight against inflation and now that we are asking people who are relatively well-off to do their share as well, the Opposition has withdrawn its support and is trying to sabotage this effort.

[English]

I repeat that I do not regret nor do I apologize for moving this motion of time allocation because of the repetition of the same speech, which concerned everything except the subject, or gave wrong information on the subject, which is only creating worry in a segment of our population that does not need more worries.

I believe that we should proceed with the Bill and send it to committee so that pension cheques will arrive in time. This

afternoon we are engaged in a debate on time allocation for which I ask all Members' co-operation.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) should be ashamed to stand there as a Liberal and support this Bill. In true socialist tradition the Liberals will rewrite history. They have been taking credit for supposedly helping the poor for years so they can describe themselves as great Liberals. When they now have to cut back their aid as a result of the inflation which they have caused, they are trying to rewrite history by saying that everyone is prepared to support these cutbacks and no one will be significantly hurt. They say that these measures do not represent an abandonment of universal-ity. That is not true.

We are proud that 17 Members stood to give their views. Every Member on this side would like to stand and oppose the Bill but the Liberals will not let us. Only five Liberals found the courage to stand up and speak. Then when they stood, they were speaking for the Government. Were they trying to represent the views of 1.2 million Canadians, senior citizens, a substantial number of whom make barely over \$8,900? Were any of the Liberal Members standing for them and speaking out? No, not one. Five stood and, in a mealy-mouthed way, tried to back up the Government; but they are so embarrassed that Hon. Members opposite with any sense of honour will not stand and speak for the Bill.

• (1520)

Therefore, the Minister must come in and impose closure. That is what we are faced with here. Let us not kid ourselves, this is closure. This is denying the right of elected citizens to stand up and say: "I have senior citizens who are being hurt". The Minister would deny us that right and she should not stand up and be proud of that.

The Minister tried to say that the six and five program is cutting inflation in this country. Nothing could be further from the truth. Senior citizens know what is cutting back inflation—the depression—because they have lived through it. They saw similar types of situations during the twenties, which then brought the country to its knees during the thirties. They know that inflation must be stopped and they want it to be stopped fairly. It is the depression which the Liberal policies are bringing upon this country. That is what is causing inflation to drop, not the six and five program.

The Liberals are closing off the debate because they do not like publicity; we are starting to get the point through to individual Canadians that this program is not fair. This Bill is unfair imposition on 1.2 million Canadians who are at the low end of the income structure.

Are there any cutbacks of expenditure of the Government? Has there been restraint on the part of Deputy Ministers who are making \$90,000? Do you know what they will receive next year, Mr. Speaker? Barely 30 days from now, they will receive an automatic raise of \$5,400. What are we taking from senior