

possible for every Canadian to know that he can have a job. Every Canadian wants to know that by hard and intelligent effort he can earn a good living. He wants to know that he will be able to provide for the needs of his family, to educate his children to the extent of their ability, and to live in a world of peace.

The Liberal government has demonstrated, Mr. Speaker, its inability to provide such a blueprint for the future, and that is why the people have decided that it shall be kept on in a temporary capacity only. At the next election, the people are going to choose a government with plans, not only far-seeing, but practical, and, Mr. Speaker, we intend to form such a government.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, during the course of the present debate on the Speech from the Throne we have heard many remarks, most of them very laudatory, from hon. members in this house concerning the government's proposals for its total war on poverty. In this attack on poverty I believe that the Canada Assistance Plan, medicare and manpower policies are very important weapons.

The first step in fighting poverty is the Canada Assistance Plan which is to provide, with the co-operation of the provincial governments across Canada, an increase in old age pensions to our senior citizens in need. Everyone agrees that today a \$75 per month pension for any person, who has no other source of income, is completely inadequate to enable him to lead a decent life. However, Mr. Speaker, we hope that the program at present being worked out in co-operation with the provincial welfare ministers will provide to those in need adequate assistance in their old age.

I have only one worry in this regard, Mr. Speaker, and that is that we have not heard enough about the new term "principle of need". If we are to see that our senior citizens have an adequate income to lead a decent life, especially in our great cities where the cost of living is very high, then I think that the federal government should use all possible moral persuasion as well as its fiscal authority to prevail upon the provincial governments to recognize that the needs test should embrace as many citizens as possible in order to make their lives easier in these days.

The Address—Mr. Haidasz

The second attack on poverty, Mr. Speaker, is the medicare program of the government.

Mr. Herridge: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Haidasz: After my speech, if you will. For the past 15 years, I have been an active medical practitioner in the constituency of Parkdale and am therefore closely acquainted with the medical and welfare needs of its residents, most of whom are people of little or only modest means. I am therefore particularly happy that the government and the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) are not only vitally concerned about the health needs of the Canadian people, but also that the Prime Minister has already announced that the government has offered to pay 50 per cent of the cost of a comprehensive medical insurance plan.

This comprehensive medical insurance plan, Mr. Speaker, is urgently needed, and I am sure all hon. members are in agreement with that. The conditions laid down by the government, namely, that it be comprehensive, that it be universally applied, that it have the principle of portability attached to it, and that it be administered by the provincial governments, are very valid and worthy conditions.

In connection with this aspect of the medical insurance plan, Mr. Speaker, I should also like to urge the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) especially to consult the government of Mr. Robarts, whose imminent medicare plan is inadequate and very unpopular. Many of those in Parkdale to whom I have spoken have voiced grave concern, feeling that this is a plan to help insurance companies and other private carriers rather than the people themselves.

• (3:20 p.m.)

Very closely associated with the medicare program is the government's health resources fund for the improvement of research and teaching facilities. This is an important item in the war on poverty because it will lead to the provision of more doctors and medical technicians to provide the necessary health services for our people. I hope the facilities which are to benefit from federal aid will include not only medical research establishments, medical schools and teaching hospitals, but also those non-teaching hospitals of Canada where general practitioners and others will be able to carry out their work in a more satisfactory manner and where their medical knowledge can be updated as well as continued.