Family Allowance Act

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance about the forthcoming business for the House? Yesterday the government House leader indicated that Monday would be devoted to the indoor pursuit of the budget. I now understand that according to arrangements made, Tuesday will be set aside for the budget as well, with a vote on the NDP subamendment if they think they can improve on our amendment. Will the Parliamentary Secretary confirm this?

Mr. Mahoney: That is correct. Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to the budget debate, and assuming an amendment and subamendment are forthcoming there will be a vote on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday I assume the old age security measure which we are now debating will again be discussed. However, that is a subject for further discussion among the House leaders.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is good to have this information. I can assure the hon. member for Peace River that we shall improve upon his party's amendment.

• (4:00 p.m.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

FAMILY ALLOWANCE ACT

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN ALLOWANCE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should give consideration to the advisability of amending the present Family Allowance Act to the advantage of all children in Canada less than 16 years old, to provide for increases to an amount of at least one dollar per day, increases which are absolutely necessary to justify adequate support to parents who still consent to prepare for our country the future generation of workers and, if necessary, of soldiers capable of defending it when needed. In addition, the House should study the means of earmarking the necessary amounts for payment of these family allowances from the national production of goods in order not to increase personal or corporation income taxes, or the cost of living, or the cost of any goods or service, for this purpose, which is perfectly possible, easy and to the advantage of all the citizens of Canada, as well as very profitable for the whole general economy of all the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased once more to discuss the same motion that has appeared on the order paper for several years. Last year, the House was unable to grant me time to discuss it. This year, I am happy to explain the motion that reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should give consideration to the advisability of amending the present Family Allowance Act to the advantage of all children in

Canada less than 16 years old, to provide for increases to an amount of at least one dollar per day, increases which are absolutely necessary to justify adequate support to parents who still consent to prepare for our country the future generation of workers and, if necessary, of soldiers capable of defending it when needed.

In addition, the House should study the means of earmarking the necessary amounts for payment of these family allowances from the national production of goods in order not to increase personal or corporation income taxes, or the cost of living, or the cost of any goods or service, for this purpose, which is perfectly possible, easy and to the advantage of all the citizens of Canada, as well as very profitable for the whole general economy of all the nation.

Mr. Speaker, since I was elected in 1962, my party has entrusted me with putting the case for family allowances. I have been doing so for eight years and I have not won anything so far. My statements on this matter would fill quite a book.

Today, I would like to make a summary of my numerous remarks on this issue which, in my opinion, is the most important one ever discussed in the House.

Mr. Speaker, this is the most important question, as it affects seven million citizens, namely more than a third of Canada's population. It is an important subject because seven million children, the hope of this country, cannot provide for themselves and must, of course, rely on their parents and on the society in which they live.

If parents have the first responsibility as far as the life and education of their children are concerned, we must recognize that they assume that responsibility within an organized society, under the federal government's authority.

Let us remember that in all matters concerning the monetary system, currency, the banking system, rates of interest and the issuing of money or credit, the federal government retains all powers, but it must also respect the life of every Canadian citizen.

More and more money is needed in order to live in our society today. Even if 8,500,000 adults can earn money from work or from investment of their capital, there are still 13 million other citizens who have no cash income at all and therefore no purchasing power neither from work nor from their capital. But the latter are all entitled to a standard of living based on the annual national production.

That is the basis of any study on the importance of the amounts of money that are to be guaranteed to each Canadian as a guaranteed personal income from birth to death. That is the first right of the citizen.

The government must recognize its economic and monetary responsibility in connection with the right to live of each Canadian citizen.

Children, who cost a lot, cannot earn their living. The father works at the same salary as the bachelor. The housewife does not receive any salary.