

Now let us look at this problem from the standpoint of the individuals concerned. Take two young people starting out in life with equal opportunity and equal advantage. They both obtain employment; both acquire a certain measure of wealth. One establishes a home and raises a family; the other does not, but invests his savings in bonds or securities. When they reach the age of sixty-five, one has invested his dollars, but the other has invested something more valuable than money; he has made a contribution to Canada that the other has not. Which should have the first consideration from this country, the man who invests his dollars and gets the interest, or the one who invests in a home and gives Canada sons and daughters? At the age of sixty-five the one may have his home sold from over him to help keep up the interest payable to the other. That shows the real bearing of this problem.

I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) regarding defects in the regulations and administration of the present act. I want to refer to one or two instances. I have in mind a man eighty-two years of age. I just saw in this week's local paper that this old couple had celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. The old gentleman was away in the United States visiting his family and stayed there longer than he had intended owing to sickness. He was back eight years before the old age pension came into force. When he attained the age he applied for and was given an old age pension. Eight years or more later it was discovered that he had not complied with the regulations. Before the Old Age Pensions Act came into force he had been out of the country for a few days longer than the time limit, and he was cut off. Now he has been back long enough to comply, I believe this year, with all the requirements, but he has been told that he cannot get back on the old age pension unless he pays back to the board the amount he received previously. He has been on relief ever since he was cut off, so how in the world is he ever going to get on the old age pension again? That man has served for over forty years as a justice of the peace, and I should think he would be entitled to a pension on that account.

I have another couple in mind who sold their farm some ten or twelve years ago and thought they had a comfortable living for their old age. During the last six years they have not received one cent from that farm, which has not produced enough to pay the taxes. They cannot get on the old age

[Mr. Needham.]

pension list because they still have an equity in the farm. I think there should be some board to investigate cases of this nature in order that these people may get something different from the relief which may be handed out to them. As the hon. member for Comox-Alberni stated, they are getting a form of pension through the relief they receive, but there is a difference between the pension and relief as far as charity and that sort of thing goes.

I understood the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) to say that parliament has control of currency and credit. I am very glad to hear that. I do not know when they took control, though at the last election that was one thing they said they were going to do. I have yet to meet the first person who has seen any change in policy, but I can assure the minister that hon. members in this corner will be only too willing to give the minister every possible support in exercising that control, as far as he can influence parliament. We shall do our part along that very line. What better place to start could there be than by issuing the credit of this country in the form of a pension to the old people? I would agree with the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Bradette) that it should be made universal in its application, and then perhaps those people we heard of this afternoon, who have gone to the island of Bermuda or some other place, would come back so that they might share in the pension.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, in the time which is left to-night manifestly it is impossible to go into this question of the new economics. It delights me greatly to see the earnestness with which our fellow members of parliament are coming at least to tolerate our remarks when we undertake to discuss this great question. I believe that as the days go by not only the members of this parliament but the people throughout Canada and the world will come to realize that there is a great deal in the new economics.

Speaking in a general sort of way, it seems to me it is absolutely idiotic to think we have an abundance and are unable to give of that abundance to the needy who have spent their lives helping to produce it. During the time at my disposal to-night I am just going to outline very briefly where the money comes from. In the first place one must ask himself, What is money? We have not time to go into that in great detail; but when we look into that question and begin to find out not only what money is but what we in Canada are using for money, where that thing