

them. What about wage and price controls? I do not want to mention that.

Mr. Paproski: Go ahead.

Mr. Martin: What about wage and price controls?

Mr. Alexander: Government members are thieves.

Mr. Martin: What about indexing?

Mr. Alexander: I should like to refer to wage and price controls, because our senior citizens have been affected by these. In 1974, members of the Liberal party travelled across Canada indicating that price and wage controls did not work in the United States and Great Britain, and that they could never work in our country. At that time they indicated that they would never bring in price and wage controls because they would be disastrous for the country.

Mr. Martin: No freeze.

Mr. Alexander: What is the situation now? That is why the government's credibility is shot at the present time. It indicated that the wages of Canadian workers would never be frozen. Hon. members of the government are the biggest bunch of hypocrites I have ever met. That is why the government is going down the drain and its credibility is shot.

Mr. Huntington: That is why there are over one million unemployed.

Mr. Alexander: Now the government is attempting to pussyfoot and indicate its circumstances have changed. I told the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) about that idea. He had that policy tucked under his armpit. I brought that matter up after the 1974 election. He was as embarrassed as the other members of the government are at the present time. Government members are deceitful. They play hanky-panky with Canadians. They are flimflam artists. They are thieves. I am directing those remarks to the government collectively and not to any individual member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): I suggest to the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) that in the opinion of the Chair he is pretty close to the line. I suggest that he should be careful in what he says about our government.

Mr. Alexander: I never like to tread on Your Honour's toes. I do not mind treading on the toes of government members, but treading on Your Honour's toes is another matter.

I should like to refer to the New Horizons program. It is a magnificent and excellent program. Recently I found out that senior citizens are concerned about young people having so much to say about programs designed for senior citizens. The senior population would like to have more individual, personal input into these programs. That is not happening now.

Mr. Paproski: We will make it happen.

Social Policy

Mr. Alexander: Yes, we will. I should like to refer to very simple matters such as our taxation forms. They are horrendous. I attempted to figure out my form the other day. I am a pretty smart fellow—perhaps hon. members opposite do not think so—but it was an absolutely terrible and frustrating job. I managed to get my return in. I did not do what I was supposed to do.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: I just dumped all of my papers into the envelope and mailed it. I can imagine what senior citizens face when they attempt to complete their forms with no assistance. The government should give thought to having more assistance available in the offices of the Department of National Revenue for the benefit of senior citizens. Of course, I refer particularly to the city of Hamilton. I feel this is another policy which has some merit.

Another problem which our senior citizens face is in the area of benefits. No matter what the benefit is, the bureaucracy is fantastic and the red tape is too long. Perhaps the government knows about this problem and is coming to grips with it, but it is somewhat lost with the countless millions of people who are involved. It takes too much time for senior citizens to receive benefits. I am sure those members of our population would like to see the red tape cut and the bureaucracy removed as much as possible, so that they will know when to expect receipt of their cheques.

Guaranteed income supplements were referred to earlier. I realize we are getting into the area of shared cost programs, but we must look hard at what we are doing to some of our senior citizens. If they are slightly over a particular limit, they are not entitled to any help whatsoever. When these same people start to receive incomes, and as tough as things are now—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): I regret to inform the great hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) that his time has expired.

Mr. Alexander: Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Alan Martin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate this afternoon in this opposition motion which has been put forward by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). On the one hand, I suppose we might call it the "cruel and unjust" motion. On the other hand, based on the discussions which have taken place this afternoon, perhaps it can be labelled as the "\$4 billion flip-flop motion".

It is incredible that it is sponsored by the official opposition that hopes to form the government of this country at some point some day in this century; God knows when. The financial critic of that party, the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens), distinguishes himself by his absence from the chamber this afternoon. I think I can understand why.