

Interim Supply

Queen of the Netherlands and from Belgium, as is shown by the *Parliamentary Guide* and, as I understand from the hon. member for Kootenay West, can even accept a title from Saint Lazarus. But I do not know anything about that last one.

I should like to ask the cabinet to consider the restoration of Canadian citizenship to Lord Thomson, a man who has brought honour and credit to his native land.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for the hon. member. May I ask it in French? I know the hon. member is a perfect bilingualist and does not need the help of the translation system. This is my question.

[Translation]

Is the hon. member aware of the fact that, in order to become right honourable, that is more honourable, it is necessary to become a member of the privy council of England? Does he not think that this is a bondage, since one must become a member of the privy council of a different government in order to become right honourable? Would he deem it advisable to change such a situation, since the Queen of England is also the Queen of Canada? We could become right honourable by becoming members of the privy council of Canada.

[English]

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairman, in replying to the very penetrating question of the hon. member for Lotbinière, I should like to emphasize that personally I am opposed to the granting of titles and honours of any kind, either domestic, foreign or British; but when I find that the Nickle resolution of 1919, which I endorse 100 per cent, is being circumvented by the Canadian cabinet, I feel that if they are going to circumvent the Nickle resolution they should circumvent it 100 per cent. They should either restore its effect or throw it out the window. It is being eased out the window at the present time. I agree 100 per cent with the intent and purpose of the question by the hon. member for Lotbinière.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few brief comments. I was quite impressed by the speech made by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox and by the hon. member for Danforth. In this land of affluence, I think far too often we forget the people who are living marginally. I think also we forget the intrusions the government has made in respect of the taxpayers' money. Within the

last year municipal taxes have gone up, provincial taxes have gone up; federal income taxes have gone up and, along with that, the government is causing a further drain because of the Canada Pension Plan, since this not only means a further cost to the individuals, but also, because the employer has to pay his share, the taxpayer has less to take home. This is illustrated very dramatically by the savings of the people today being down and by the increased demand for credit. There has been a great increase across Canada in credit buying. The reason is that these people simply do not have sufficient money to make both ends meet. The 11 per cent sales tax adds to this, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox. This increases the cost about 20 per cent at the retail level.

The consuming public pays and must pay these costs. These people are harassed. Not only that, it is making the cost of business higher and higher. Over and above that, you have the people who are working as employees needing and demanding more money because they cannot make ends meet. This means that in labour you have people who threaten strike action in an effort to obtain more money than they need but I wish to speak particularly about those people who are on fixed incomes, the pensioners. I do not believe this government is taking cognizance of what they are doing to the person who is on a fixed pension. When you consider that the dollar of 1950 now is worth about 60 cents and when year after year we have eroded the money—and I say “we”, because we are the parliament—and when you consider that in the last year alone the price of food has increased 10 per cent—and we must remember that food is a staple article, the most necessary thing in the world—how do we think the fellow who is on a fixed pension is going to meet his needs. He is pinched, unless he happens to have a very considerable pension.

I should like to go a little further and ask what we are doing to the old age pensioner; what are we doing to the person 70 years of age or over. Maybe there are not sufficient in this group, among the voting public, to alarm the government, but I should like to say this, that mercy and justice to all should be the dominant consideration in any government. These people are just about forgotten. When the government says “oh well, a lot of them have other income”, let me say that 70 per cent of all the women 70 years and over