

government we have, we seem to have to wait and wait and wait.

One of the phrases or slogans, Mr. Speaker, that is current these days is an interesting one, "The war on poverty". President Johnson of the United States has declared such a war on poverty in his country. It is a slogan, as I say, that many speakers both in and out of politics are using these days. It is a good phrase; it is capturing our imagination. It is my contention that we should do something about it, and that the place to begin a war on poverty is by filling in the gap in our social security legislation, by improving the social and economic position of those people who are suffering from the effects of poverty.

Most members are aware of the book that Michael Harrington wrote, entitled "The Other America", in which he pointed out the existence of poverty in that country. I have in my hand a pamphlet by Dwight Macdonald entitled, "Our Invisible Poor", which is more or less a summary of what Mr. Harrington set out in his book. Mr. Macdonald points out that it is Mr. Harrington's estimate that between 40 and 50 million people in the United States or about one quarter of the population of that country are now living in poverty. If that is the case in the United States, since in most respects the figures for Canada run about 10 per cent of those for the United States, it would follow that there could be between four million and five million Canadians who are living in poverty as defined by people like Michael Harrington and Dwight Macdonald, a definition which is accepted by President Johnson and by others.

Not long ago there appeared an interesting article in the Toronto *Daily Star*. It appeared in the issue of that paper dated Saturday, March 14, 1964. This article was entitled, "Canada: 3,000,000 Poor". The author is Dr. Albert Rose. I should like to read a few sentences from the paragraph preceding this article:

How many poor people are there in Canada?

One of the most respected social scientists in Canada, Dr. Albert Rose, professor of social work at the University of Toronto, said recently there may be 3,000,000 Canadians—as many as one out of six—who can't afford a minimum adequate standard of living.

Then, there follows the article by Dr. Rose. It is interesting that when he sets out the categories under which one finds these people who make up his estimate of three million poor Canadians, these are the categories: The unemployed, the disabled, widows

or deserted mothers with dependant children, unmarried mothers with dependant children, children in the care of children's aid societies or institutions, blind persons and aged persons. This is a very interesting article which I commend to members generally. I should like to read just one paragraph:

As yet in Canada, there has not been sufficient research to document the extent of poverty more clearly. A reasonable estimate might be that the "self-supporting poor" are at least twice as numerous as the group in dire poverty, at least 2,000,000 persons. Canada's "poor" population, then, may number a total of 3,000,000, as many as one in six persons.

This is a rather sad picture, Mr. Speaker, and it is significant we are called upon to face that fact for this hour during a day when we are debating the kind of flag we want to fly over our country. The other day my leader said that what was very important was the kind of country over which the flag would fly. It is not a very happy thought that any flag would fly over a country such as Canada in 1964 in which an outstanding social scientist could say there are three million poor, perhaps more. I urge that we make an attack on this problem of poverty at the point where poverty exists. We can do it by overhauling our social security legislation, by regarding this as a task that cannot wait. We are in an affluent society in some respects. The capacity for producing wealth is great. We have automation and we have cybernation.

There was an interesting suggestion made in Charlottetown the other day by David M. Winch, assistant professor of economics at the University of Alberta, when discussing the possible impact of automation on the economy. He said that perhaps the time has come to provide a minimum allowance for everyone to spread the income amongst all our people. The idea is gradually gaining some currency that the day will come when we may have to pay people for doing no work at all because the machines will have taken the work away from us. We may be paying people and encouraging them, in every possible way, to live in cultural ways and play their part in helping others.

The social legislation we have put on our statute books does record the progress we have made in 50 or 60 years, but compared with the needs of our people, compared with our capacity, we have only begun. To put some meaning into the whole effort to produce the kind of social security legislation which would make us proud, we have to do