

during the first six months, provide for a voluntary pension, that is to say enable people between 60 and 65 to get a reasonable pension and a deserved rest and, during the next six months, make this pension compulsory, if we really are to put an end to this unemployment which has existed for too long a time.

I understand that the government has been hesitating about developing such a policy, because it has believed, for four years, that it was going to correct this situation through money injections made by the departments I referred to a while ago. I repeat that the government has made every effort in terms of time and money, but we all admit that this was not sufficient. This policy, which would reduce by 70 per cent the number of unemployed, would be such as to involve the passing of legislation which, from a social point of view, would be quite extraordinary and, at the same time, we should stop to spoil the generation of people between 20 and 30, trying to give them ever increasing social allowances, just to request that they remain idle.

We should give serious consideration to setting the age for eligibility to old age security at 60. The amount should be adequate. In view of all the consequences I have just mentioned I believe we would truly make progress towards achievement of a much better social climate than is now prevailing.

I should also, Mr. Speaker, point out to those in the government, particularly to the Minister of Finance, that funds should be made available to build anti-pollution plants in municipalities. It is all very well to discuss pollution but so long as sufficient funds are not made available to municipalities for the building of such plants, all attempts to clean up the St. Lawrence river are pointless, since we know that all its affluent rivers are polluted.

• (1600)

It is very important, I suggest, that intelligent officials see to it that we clean up the Great Lakes and the main rivers first and then smaller streams.

Our municipalities are all anxious—which I learned from their responsible representatives—to get purification plants but the required funds are not available. I think that the Minister of Finance should in the near future consider paying the cost of building purification plants, which would promote the sale of materials and create jobs. Such a policy would be extremely beneficial. And what about the importance the House should attach to recreation? Of course we know that in the province of Quebec certain jurisdictions must be respected. For my part, the suggestion I would make would respect those jurisdictions. I am thinking of a policy on recreation that would provide credits. In fact, the problem is always one of credits when municipalities are considering the construction of arenas and baseball fields.

I know what extraordinary amounts of money provincial governments have spent to organize recreation. Above all else, the municipalities must be given the basic tools, I know from experience because I have dealt personally in recreation. In fact, I had the opportunity and the pleasure of doing recreational work for years, and I know very well how to go about it. It is often low-brow work. It does not necessarily entail the submission of

The Budget—Mr. La Salle

extensive briefs to the department, which in any case often gather dust on the shelf.

I know some municipalities which are now equipped with a floodlit arena or baseball park. I feel they are basic equipment which enable them not only to play hockey or baseball but to go in for other forms of athletics.

How could we reach those goals? I thought that the government would be in a position to take part in the construction of arenas. In the average municipality, an arena can cost some \$100,000. I do not refer to large arenas with artificial ice which can cost \$500,000 or \$600,000. In my opinion, those who advocate such projects are mistaken. A good number of average municipalities would like to be have an ordinary arena which would enable thousands of young people to practice some sports, whatever the weather. Such arenas can be built at a cost of \$100,000. And I believe that the federal government could invite the provinces to participate, and the provinces could in turn invite municipalities to do so. The municipality would show its good faith by guaranteeing a minimum fund of 25 per cent. The province could be invited to provide 25 per cent of the cost, and the federal government, 50 per cent. We shall then be able to establish a serious, efficient and long-term recreation policy. For instance, my riding has benefited this winter from local initiative programs worth \$1,300,000. I was very happy, but I am sure that if the municipalities had been provided with a million dollars, they would have succeeded in building a dozen arenas where, for 20, 25, 30 or 40 years, thousands of young people would have enjoyed themselves.

Such a comparison is valid and I make it because I believe more than ever that it is important to supply the municipalities and the young with basic institutions which will last. As for the necessary basic structure, it shall be easy to provide once we have the basic tools with which to work.

It is unthinkable to organize a hockey game when there is a storm; it is unthinkable to organize a baseball or softball game when it rains. It is unthinkable, of course, to have games during the summer after 8 p.m., as we have no lights.

As for funds put at the disposal of municipalities they should first be discussed with the provinces and municipalities. I am convinced that they would be quite pleased to pay a quarter of these expenditures. The federal government would do something profitable and durable. It would seriously contemplate a policy on leisure.

This does not mean that the federal government should cease promoting sports in Canada, as it is now doing, but in order to properly compete with other countries, serious consideration should nevertheless be given to building arenas and training athletes who will do credit to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot ignore the Opportunities for Youth program which in itself is still an excellent initiative but its application is quite questionable.

The government should seriously consider instituting programs of such a nature that they will serve society in general and at which the young people could work and earn a substantial income during the summer.