

Statute Law Amendment Act, 1970

sands of Canadians from one end of Canada to the other who do not know what it is to have a pension, who do not know what it is to have a monthly income when they finish their normal term of employment. We should set up proper, portable pension plans for the whole country. We have never really done that. We have never really done a top-notch job in this field, although there has been some improvement in the over-all picture.

I have heard stories of hon. members who are having difficulty in sending their children to schools and universities. Mr. Speaker, I can name hundreds of children who could not go to university because their parents could not afford to put the money down on the line. This situation does not apply only to Members of Parliament; it applies to a broad spectrum of Canadian citizens.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I endorse this amendment which proposes that clause 13 be stricken from the bill. If the government wishes to propose other measures to make up the difference, that may be all right, but the \$6,000 expense allowance in no way, shape or form should be used as a basis for pension purposes when it is not used for taxation purposes. If we adopt this bill we will be giving ourselves special privileges, which is something we should not do.

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I think the government is to be commended for its courage in bringing forward this bill. To look after yourself is not a popular thing, although our Socialist friends are all preaching that it is. Speaking for the greater number of the members of this House, I say they are quibbling when they talk about whether or not the \$6,000 is an expense account or is pay. It is probably an outdated method of paying people something in the nature of what they are worth. We have this situation because governments in the past have not had the courage to come forward and look at the question and bring it up-to-date. We know they should bring all pension rates up-to-date, but let us bring on one thing at a time.

Mr. Saltsman: Us first?

Mr. Bigg: I wonder if the hon. member who interjected would tell us how much money he has in his private fortune and what it is like to be so independent as to be able to devote your time to the Canadian people in such a fashion. I think there is hypocrisy here. I say that if you are rich enough, you should

[Mr. Harding.]

donate your time. Why don't you come here as a dollar-a-year man and give your member's pay to the starving children in Biafra?

I have been a civil servant all my life, very inadequately paid, and the pension is not worth mentioning. I heard no ravings from that corner of the chamber to increase my pay in that time—and they have had 40 years to do it. I heard no ravings from that corner about the soldiers' pay. To them I say, I know you are all pacifists. Why? You live in a country defended by the soldiers of this country. Are the soldiers of the past and the soldiers of the present being adequately paid? Are the paraplegics in our hospitals being adequately paid, those who suffered through defending our country? They defended their country to allow you to spout your socialism. You want it both ways. Do you want the soldiers to fight for you for nothing, to spend the rest of their lives in hospital beds for nothing? Why? Because you believe in western freedom?

Mr. Nystrom: You would like to see them in Viet Nam, wouldn't you?

Mr. Bigg: Where would you like to see them?

Mr. Harding: We have been trying to get a raise for them.

Mr. Bigg: They stand for western freedom. Where do you stand? Everytime you talk about Viet Nam I know it is the same old red herring, and I mean red. Why don't you talk about Laos today? Who is invading Laos today?

Mr. Peters: Would you call Spiro to order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Bigg: We are having interjections from my red friends to my left. If they will just keep quiet for a time we will get on with this bill.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I would like the hon. member to withdraw that remark, if I was one of those included.

Mr. Bigg: My bright pink friends, please keep quiet for a while.

Mr. Peters: I am not his bright pink friend, either, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bigg: My salmon-coloured friend, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must ask him to be as relevant as possible to the subject under discussion.