

*Old Age Security Act*

which is disrupted, confused, in short, unbalanced through and through. Let us keep on, if we enjoy it, wasting our time on trifles when the whole structure is falling apart.

A while ago, I listened with great interest to the speech delivered by the member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson). He made a sensible speech and put his finger on the cause of our current economic problems. Furthermore, he proposed certain solutions to get our economy moving again.

Other members also described the difficult economic circumstances which affect us one and all. Every day I receive letters which indicate that there is general discomfort and dissatisfaction. I will confine myself to deal with the indispensable economic reforms.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Our national economy is off balance because of the lamentable purchasing power of senior citizens. The Canadian government which exercises the supreme command and has a right of supervision and direction on the economic, monetary and political activities of citizens cannot correct the situation.

I must recall something fundamental that can help correct any economy which has been disrupted as a result of the attitude of the government and of the country's most important institutions.

The principle implied in the speeches of all government members, but which in no way corresponds to their economic concerns is their pretended unawareness of the daily realities of the Canadian economy which is necessarily personal and family-oriented, as well as social and corporate. It is needless to speak of administration, of economic policy whether national provincial, municipal or international, unless this principle is recognized from the start. Not only from the philosophical point of view, but from the practical point of view as well.

Mr. Speaker, having forgotten this first principle of any public administration, we now have an unbalanced economy. Nobody can live without money in any civilized country, be it capitalist, socialist or communist. To consume and produce goods and services, one must have money. Everywhere money is needed in any phase of the economic life, whether a child is being born, an adolescent growing up, an adult feeling he is in perfect fit, or an older citizen living his last days.

Any social life is entirely monetary, economic and political.

Because it is monetary, we need a purchasing power based on the basic needs of each human being.

Because it is economic, it is necessary that production should meet the daily consumption needs of each human being before being used for capitalizing for the future.

Because it is political, we have to control, through wise policies, all currency circulation according to the economic capabilities of the actual or possible production and according to the needs of all the human beings who compose the population of Canada, whether they are

[Mr. Latulippe.]

children, students or adult producers on unemployed. Whether they are pensioners, old citizens, sick or disabled persons, they have a right to live.

There is talk about giving something to old people once they have been unclothed, once they have been thrown out on the street. Action is needed to enable them to live. In order to keep them alive governments must intervene and to do it, they must rob well-off people and give their money to the others. Harm, even great harm, is done to some, to many, in order to ensure some happiness, some right to live to others in this country.

Instead of increasing the cost of living, of allowing interest rates to rise, or of enriching only the rich, society must be served. We should use our resources to serve our people. By this I mean that, instead of redistributing our riches, we are trying to redistribute what is in scarce supply.

According to statistics, our capitalization this year amounts to \$34 billion. Surely, we could take one billion out of this to give a monthly pension of \$150 to our older people without submitting them to any means test.

All Canada's senior citizens should receive \$150 per month and I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that this is possible. It is easy to make such a distribution in our beautiful country. If we do not know where to get the money from, instead of robbing some to give to others—as I have said before in this House—we could use capitalization surpluses as well as excess profits. We could also grant a compensated discount and establish new credits to distribute production surpluses so as to procure a decent living to our senior citizens. Older people are not clothed or housed with bits of paper. What they need is a decent house to live in, a sufficient quantity of healthy food to meet their requirements.

This is what we have to accomplish through concrete, positive and social means.

It is through social consciousness and determination to achieve our objective that we will be able to satisfy these requirements.

Canada's production is plentiful, and here is the proof. Presently, 37 per cent of all Canadians are unemployed. Several citizens who do not enjoy the benefits of unemployment insurance, receive social welfare allowances. Thousands of people live at the expense of others who have not yet a sufficient income. Instead of distributing the tremendous wealth made of \$34 billion in capital, to satisfy the needs of Canadians, people live in scarcity, and we find nothing more to say than: There is no money. To raise funds, we will have to take money from other people.

I wonder when the government members will take note of the facts which would enable us to distribute to all needy individuals the wealth which is plentiful in this country.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the entire economy, on account of our faulty financial system, no longer meets human needs. The pursuit of money has become the essential purpose of all.