

hon. member does not sit and to which she could come—that would be appreciated since there are not enough people in this country fighting poverty—is to make sure that our program's target with respect to the Canada Assistance Plan, which is a program providing billions of dollars of federal moneys to those in need, to social services and welfare, will remain the way it is. Of that the member can be sure.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: Madam Speaker, the minister will remember that she would come before a committee only to fight against the extension of spouse's allowance. That is what she would do in committee.

I ask the minister, since she has refused to meet with the Canadian Council on Social Development, and since she has refused to do anything to satisfy concerns with respect to the Canada Assistance Plan, if she would meet with her cabinet colleagues—the people who are supposed to exhibit compassion—and ask them if they would stop pressuring her to cut back on the welfare recipients of this country, something we know the cabinet has in mind to do.

Miss Bégin: Madam Speaker, I think this debate in no way helps anybody, especially those to whom I thought the hon. member was committed. She speaks of my being against increasing the extension of the spouse's allowance. She knows that is not true. I choose my priorities differently and I chose to find hundreds of millions of dollars to increase the GIS by \$20 a month in 1979.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Bégin: When the opposition came to power for a short time, to my knowledge they brought in one baby social measure which amounted to \$4 million. We were in opposition and had to fight them to raise it to \$10 million. That is what we did for the spouse's allowance.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Bégin: With respect to the other accusations she makes, they do not make much sense nor are they helpful. As a matter of fact, I have forgotten what they were about. I simply repeat that I have never refused to meet with the Canadian Council on Social Development. I would like to say that is pure rumour. At the beginning of her question, the hon. member said she was operating on the basis of rumour. I do not do that. I fight on the basis of fact and reality.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

PUBLIC SERVICE

BILINGUAL BONUS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I realize he has a personal commitment to the Official Languages Act, but I am concerned about two actions which his government has taken lately which have hurt the implementation of that act. As we know, the translators have been without a contract for the last 19 months. This has resulted in services, programs and documents not being available to citizens in both official languages.

My question is really with regard to another negotiation with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. All members of that employee group are bilingual—and I congratulate them for that. What I am upset about is that, in the round of negotiations which is continuing at this time, the government has refused to pay that group a bilingual bonus. It is the only group which does not receive the bilingual bonus. I think if the government is committed they should be acting on that.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, with respect to the hon. member's first question, I am not clear what stage of negotiation the parties have reached.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): They are still carrying on.

Mr. Trudeau: I understand they are still carrying on. I know the hon. member would not want me to intervene in this dispute at this stage, on one side or the other.

As far as the second question is concerned, I will take it as notice. I am not aware of the facts the hon. member has brought to my attention.

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for that commitment. In fact, negotiations with both groups have broken down and this is something else the Prime Minister can look into. In both cases the problem is the government's refusal to accept the conciliation board report. I would ask the Prime Minister, when he is doing his research into this matter, that he ask the ministers responsible to take a much more positive attitude toward conciliation board reports and to stop making the public service more militant.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, it seems to me that we are now talking about two management-labour disputes, which have nothing to do with the government's policy on bilingualism; it is a matter of dispute between two contending parties. I fail to see how the hon. gentleman could find that we are not following up on our bilingualism policy because there is a labour dispute with a particular union. It does not seem to follow at all, Madam Speaker.