

Hon. Member has put forth a proposal which would result in an expenditure saving to Government of about \$500 million in any one year.

With the kind of response that the Government has received from the Opposition with regard to a proposal which would reduce expenditure level by \$1.50 a month per child, could he explain the kind of reaction he would expect that the Government would receive from the Opposition if we put forth a proposal which would reduce the level of expenditures on behalf of children in Canada by \$500 million a year?

**Mr. Wenman:** The Hon. Member must realize that the figure of \$1.50 which he has used is a very nice figure because, in order to reach that figure, an average is taken across the board. The inequity which I wanted the Hon. Member to address is that there could be as much as a difference of \$100 a year between the middle-income person earning \$35,000 to \$40,000 and the person earning an income in the \$12,000 to \$20,000 block.

● (1300)

Instead, would the Hon. Member answer my question in this case or, in the form of a comment, state that in fact this is not so? This inequity is in fact in the Bill. Can he assure me that he will bring an amendment forward to correct this inequity? Is he in fact doubting?

I am quoting figures from an economist. The Hon. Member is an economist himself. Is he questioning these figures? If he wants to question these figures, then he had better not have closure today. The Government had better refer this matter to a committee so that this man can be brought forward to present his facts and figures. It is common-sense logic that if you cut a big bureaucracy in the middle, there has to be a big saving. If you make direct payments, it is common-sense there would be a saving to the Government and you would increase the amount of money received by individuals.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I think the Chair should indicate that it is past one o'clock. I want to remind Hon. Members that the period for questions and answers is to continue immediately following the Question Period. By my calculations, there would be approximately eight minutes left in the time remaining as soon as we go to Orders of the Day following Question Period.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1.02 p.m. the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

#### S.O. 21

### STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

##### URUGUAY—DROPPING OF CHARGES AGAINST FATHER PEREZ AGUIRRE

**Mr. D. M. Collette (York East):** Madam Speaker, as Vice-Chairman of the External Affairs and National Defence Sub-Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean, I had the honour, last August, to lead a parliamentary delegation to South America.

During our stay in Uruguay we had the privilege to meet Father Luis Perez Aguirre who is Uruguayan Co-ordinator of the Nobel Prize winning Peace and Justice Service of Latin America. For nearly two years Uruguayan authorities have threatened Father Aguirre, calling him to regular investigation sessions and banning his organization's information bulletin. His support of the Mothers Committee for the Disappeared, and support for relatives of political prisoners, had resulted in strict surveillance and repressive action on the part of the police and the armed forces. In fact, the day before we met Father Perez Aguirre in Montivedeo last August, he had been informed that charges would be laid as a result of his human rights work. Conviction would have meant imprisonment and probably torture in La Libertad Prison.

Upon our return, we were resolved to bring the plight of Father Perez and his unjust treatment to the attention of Canadians. In particular, my colleagues, the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) and the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) took the lead in informing the Canadian public.

As a result of representations made to the Government of Uruguay, Madam Speaker, by many Canadians and Members of Parliament, I am pleased to state that today I have received information that all charges against Father Perez Aguirre have been dropped. This is a testimony to the action of many Canadians and their Members of Parliament who have expressed their abhorrence of human rights abuses in Uruguay. It is also an indication, I hope, Madam Speaker, that the Government of Uruguay is concerned that the past dark decade of repression has become an unconscionable blight on the otherwise enlightened and civilized history of the Uruguayan nation.

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#### MACDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION

##### REMUNERATION OF COMMISSIONERS

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Madam Speaker, the composition of "Big Mac's" Royal Commission on the economy continues to be astounding. If Mr. Macdonald is intent on building up a "Team Canada", he should concentrate on filling positions other than left wing.