

Family Allowances

I could quote further excerpts from the speech of the hon. member for Parkdale, but these are sufficient. Is it possible that such a distinguished member of the house should even think of criticizing this bill whereby the government of this country seeks to help large families, whereby it expects to help young children who did not ask to be brought into the world, whereby it seeks to increase the birth rate? Is it possible that a physician who has undoubtedly received in his office expectant mothers worrying over the birth of their child and wondering if they would have enough money for its care and support, could criticize this bill which may help a province in which there are large families, under the pretence that it has not, as he claims, done its full share in support of the war effort.

Mr. Speaker, could there be anything more humiliating and disheartening for all those members of the province of Quebec who sit in this house and who have supported wholeheartedly the war effort of the government and of this country? Could there be anything more humiliating for all those members of Quebec who have done their utmost in all parts of the province to bring home to our people the importance of getting behind the government and the country in this tremendous war effort so that we may achieve victory. But, Mr. Speaker, can the loyalty of the province of Quebec be judged by the few extremists who give the impression that Quebec is not one hundred per cent behind the war effort? Would we be justified in believing that all Canadians are against the province of Quebec because a few extremists in Ontario or elsewhere criticize our province?

Mr. Speaker, this legislation should afford us much satisfaction. I, for one, am pleased with it; not only for the province of Quebec, but for all Canada. I was pleased to hear last night what the Right Honourable the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) had to say in reply to certain charges uttered by people who said that this bill had been introduced in the house as a bribery, to use their own expression, in view of the next dominion election, or, again, to help Mr. Godbout in his Quebec election campaign. I commend the prime minister for having brought down this measure in the interests not only of the province of Quebec but of Canada as a whole. As was so aptly said, nothing could be more necessary, nothing could be more useful to this country than children. Some people would like to see Canada increase its population through immigration, but nothing that the governments might do could be more helpful than family allowances. They will thus increase the birth

[Mr. Fauteux.]

rate and ensure to newborn children health, clothing, shelter, education and everything they need.

It has also been said that this measure would perhaps help Mr. Godbout to be reelected. Well, Mr. Speaker, since the subject has been broached, I say that, to my mind, every Canadian, irrespective of his party affiliation, every Canadian who is really in favour of harmony and national unity in this country, must wholeheartedly desire the reelection of Mr. Godbout, who is the only one among the three Quebec party leaders who is fully behind Canada's war effort and who truly supports every movement in favour of national unity and harmony in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I have not been too fiery and that it will be understood that I do not want charges to be wrongfully levelled against my province, no more than I would tolerate that people from my province should level accusations against another. I believe that all provinces have heeded the call of duty, that all have done their share by giving their sons, their money and their toil in support of this country's war effort. Instead of criticizing each other let us be tolerant. I shall conclude by quoting these words from a Quebec statesman which I would like to hear more frequently in this house and elsewhere, and which, to my mind, should be adopted as a motto in the interests of unity from one end of the country to the other:

Fellow Canadians, let us put a stop to our internecine strife; let us unite!

(Text):

Mr. FRED ROSE (Cartier): I fully support the measure for family allowances; in fact I did so quite a few months ago in my speech on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. At that time I said the following about family allowances:

I welcome the promises of far-reaching reforms contained in the speech from the throne. Without such reforms . . . we cannot hope to have national unity. The promise of family allowances is good. . . . But family allowances must not replace measures for increased wages for labour. Family allowances must not become a bonus to employers, but must be a few extra dollars to people whereby they can buy more milk and more nutrition for their families.

I made that speech four days after I had the honour of coming into this house as a member. Even at that time there were certain leaders of trade unions who had made remarks against family allowances. Despite the fact that I felt some of them might attack me for my attitude, I believed that my position was the correct one. I was very much surprised that trade union leaders should have