

Family Allowance Act

Mr. Perrault:—the matter before the House relates to an important aspect of income security, namely, the present Family Allowances Act. I should like to say, however, that in the past two days we have heard an incredible amount of pathos and bathos from opposition members who have been suggesting that this government is made up of a group of hard-hearted, tight-fisted, flint-souled people who are not concerned about the welfare of the underprivileged.

Mr. Comeau: That is quite right.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Well put.

Mr. Perrault: We have listened to this great outpouring of sentiment for the underprivileged in our society. I remind hon. members that not only does the present government feel great concern for those with large families who need improved family allowances, to whom the hon. member has referred, but that the members of this party are willing to act on behalf of the underprivileged.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Perrault: We recognize, on this side of the House—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Apparently the Liberal party is willing to undo what it has done.

Mr. Perrault:—that the families of our nation deserve more help, as do our senior citizens.

Mr. Comeau: Then why does the government not help them?

Mr. Perrault: The unemployed need more help, also. I say this to hon. members: No nation in the world is doing more for its senior citizens and families, and for those who are dispossessed and underprivileged, than is this nation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Louder!

Mr. Perrault: This is a matter of record. Oh, we have heard the other parties, the Social Credit supporters especially, saying that we must help families. Last night the financial critic of the Conservative Party sounded like the voice of Christmas past when he said something like, "We want to see Liberal proposals that will bring about improved assistance for the underprivileged in society." What about the record of Conservative governments, provincial and federal, in these areas?

An hon. Member: Right.

Mr. Perrault: They have not matched, in any sense, the generosity shown by successive Liberal governments, fed-

eral and provincial. And what about provincial Social Credit governments in Canada? Not one of them has a record that is as creditable as that of the federal Liberal government of today. Last year an NDP government was elected in the province of Manitoba. The unemployed, at a special convention condemned the NDP for failing to assist the unemployed who were suffering.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Louder!

Mr. Perrault: And then they proceeded to move resolutions showing they wanted to chuck that government out of office.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Smile, Ray.

Mr. Perrault: You know, Mr. Speaker, these other parties discovered when they were in government that there is an inevitability to financial laws and that governments must bring order to their priorities. Surely, we must help the families of Canada; but we must help those families which need our help most.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Perrault: No doubt the hon. member is asking for unanimous consent to allow me to continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is this. I believe the House is so enjoying the hon. member's speech that it would like to hear the rest of it.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Bell: It is too hard on the staff.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Who said no?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): According to the rules of this House a certain procedure must be followed if we want to extend the hours of sitting. Since this procedure has not been followed, I have no choice but to say that the hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at two o'clock, pursuant to paragraph 1 of Standing Order 2.

At five o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.