Adjournment Debate

ago, we have hearts and souls just like everybody else, and as part of our party's last year election platform, we had promised spouse's allowances to widows and widowers between 60 and 64 years of age. Surely we would like to do more and say that widows and widowers will be eligible at age 59. It might be discriminatory against people 59 years of age to draw the line at age 60. But we must take into account our ability to pay; suffice it to say that we should like to do more and that we will do more as soon as we can. For the time being, only widows and widowers will start receiving in September these spouse's allowances.

If we were to share the views of the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie who feels that we are not concerned about the needs of all the needy people... Besides these widows and widowers, there is a whole lot of people within our

society, I mean, all those women who may or may not have worked outside their homes and who, being 40, 45 or 50 years of age, are tired and who would be delighted to get benefits from the government under some program or other. There are other categories of people who are improverished and underprivileged. We think about them and we are trying to put programs together to help them survive. The hon. member has raised this issue many, many times, which is understandable, but all we can say is that we will do what he is asking for when we can.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6.29 p.m.