

cheaper housing and rentals. One must take everything in context and not try to dwell on one point. The fact is that our senior citizens know they are not getting too much, but they do know that they are getting more than the senior citizens in the United States, in France, in England, in Russia or anywhere else in the world.

Not just the people in the Liberal party but also those in the Conservative party and New Democratic Party should be very proud of the way in which we are attempting to look after our senior citizens. I did not hear my friends mention anything about the increases which are to be given to the recipients of the war veterans allowance. I did not hear my hon. friends mention the fact that we still have over one million veterans in Canada out of a total of 22 million people. Those who are in receipt of war veterans allowance will find that the allowance for married recipients has been increased to \$357 a month. Once again, I say we should be very proud of that. I could go on and on. I did not hear my hon. friend from Don Valley say anything about the fact that it will now be possible to pass family farms on from generation to generation free of a capital gains tax.

Mr. Gillies: That is a great idea. I only had 30 minutes.

Mr. Whicher: I heard hon. members opposite say that other small businesses should be allowed to pass to the next generation free of a capital gains tax, but I did not hear them give any credit for what has been done. I did not hear any credit being given for the fact that, for the first time since the war years, the agriculture industry in Canada is starting to receive a fair deal. More grain is being sold now, and at higher prices, than has been the case for many years. So far as the agriculture industry is concerned the light of day is now being seen in respect of many products for the first time, but my Tory or NDP friends did not mention this. I could carry on and mention many other things. Let us think about some of the other good things we have in Canada. Let us stand up for Canada.

• (1440)

We have one of the finest educational systems in the whole world, one of the finest hospitalization systems in the world. They are not perfect by any means. However, if you think we have poor housing in the city of Toronto—there is none in Don Valley—go to Harlem in New York city and take a look at really poor housing, and that is the wealthiest city in the whole world. We are not perfect in Canada, but we have the very best there is. Ask our friends who are in the Caribbean: why is it that more Canadians travel than do the people of any other country in the world?

Mr. Paproski: They are on LIP grants.

Mr. Whicher: The answer is, because we are more prosperous.

Mr. Paproski: They are on Opportunities for Youth grants.

Mr. Whicher: I would not mind interruptions from the other side, but I hope you understand I only have a few

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minutes because I am a back-bencher. I do not, therefore have many opportunities to speak.

Mr. Paproski: Oh, oh.

Mr. Whicher: It would not take too long to cut you down to size. You will be a lot smaller, my friend.

Why is it that these good things are taking place in Canada? I will say this: the reason that we have these good things is our high standard of living. This country is not perfect by any means, as I said. The reason we have these good things is that over many years we have had an excellent democratic government here in Canada, and the one that we have at present is no exception.

I heard the speech of my friend, the hon. member for Don Valley whom I appreciate very much and I think he gave a wonderful speech yesterday. Let me say, incidentally, that he comes from the riding of Bruce. However, I was amused when I heard him say that one of the things the Conservatives would do, if they had funds, would be to reduce the age at which the old age pension is granted from 65 to 64. This is a wonderful promise but I cannot help but feel that the last time my Conservative friends had the opportunity to raise old age pensions they raised them from \$55 to \$65, and not at the age of 65 but at the age of 70.

Mr. Gillies: Poor comparison.

Mr. Whicher: These are facts, my friend. You should go back to your colleagues and start learning some of these things. I do not know what these fellows are, but they are confused, I will tell you that.

These are the things that we must think about here in Canada. We have many problems. There is not any one on this side of the House who is proud of the fact that we have 6½ per cent unemployment, but in remembering that fact let us face the reality that some of those people for various reasons, do not want to work. They may be semi-retired or may have other reasons. But let us remember that if we have 6½ per cent unemployment, it means that 93½ per cent in Canada are working. We should not forget that. When the hon. member for Don Valley suggests we should bring unemployment down to 5½ per cent, as our American friends have done, let us not forget that for the past number of years they have been fighting one off the worst wars in history with three million men under arms and with armies all over the world. Perhaps if we wanted to have an army on that scale we might bring our unemployment down to 5½ per cent.

Mr. Gillies: That is absurd.

Mr. Whicher: On the other hand, there is no doubt that the unemployment situation in Canada must be remedied. Everyone on this side of the House says so. As a matter of fact, the very first thing that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) recommended in his budget speech the other night was to lower unemployment figures in Canada and to lessen inflation. After all, we are controlled to a large extent, so far as inflation is concerned, by the outside world. We have a country to the south of us with ten times our population and 15 times our gross national product. If General Motors workers in Detroit ask for wage