

among whom the birthrate is low to increase the number of their children, simply because it will assist in removing the fear of accepting the financial responsibility that goes with marriage, the establishment of home and the raising of a family. Therefore I believe that this legislation will have a most wholesome and beneficial effect upon the family life of the whole dominion. Health and education are two great correctives of political and economic ills.

Let me suggest, too, that what we all seek is a common ideal on the part of the younger generation as it grows up; and if we apply the means available through this bill we can broaden the viewpoint, increase the health and the education of those in the large families which this measure is intended to help. If, too, we can encourage those groups who do not go in for large families to accept with this assistance the responsibility of having them, giving them the same assistance in the matter of attainment of health and education, I believe that we shall be doing a great deal to accomplish unity among the Canadians who are growing up to-day. When they reach manhood and womanhood they will have ideals in common, and be able to give to this country greater unity of effort and assure to the nation as a whole greater happiness than it has known in the past. I recommend to the government constant consideration of what I believe to be a very real problem facing this nation, namely, the encouragement of marriage between our young men and young women.

I believe it was the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) who pointed out that, roughly speaking, it requires an investment of \$5,000 to build a home which would be suitable for the average Canadian family. Most of us can remember when a like home could have been built for a great deal less. One can readily understand therefore that the average young man of to-day would hesitate, in view of the financial responsibility he would assume, to get married, because he feels he might not be able to give the girl of his choice a home, or to shoulder the responsibility of raising a family. I think we will all agree that marriage without children is not as conducive to happiness as marriage with children.

The whole programme of the government, in its national housing plan, in the Unemployment Insurance Act, in its placing of floors under certain farm product prices, in its social security legislation, in its national health legislation, and finally in this family allowance measure, is one that receives my wholehearted support. It is my profound belief that it will result in the establishment of homes and in the raising of young Canadians who will

contribute, when they grow up, substantial dividends on the amount that we are investing in the welfare of our young people.

I do not intend to keep the house any longer. I have fulfilled the purpose I had in view in my remarks, in expressing my warm support of the measure and in again congratulating the Prime Minister on the fact that in 1944 he sees the fruition of a thought that had its birth many years ago. I thoroughly agree with him that his life has been largely devoted to the endeavour to have that thought translated into legislation in this house, and I share in the pride he must feel at the comparatively united support which this particular measure is receiving in the house.

In conclusion, I would recall a statement made by the Prime Minister in connection with this bill, with which I heartily agree:

Human personality, its recognition and development, are of more importance than the protection of property, privilege or position, and the increase of human well-being of infinitely more importance than the increase of material wealth.

I think these are words which every member who supports the bill can quote with approval in recommending it to his constituency.

Mr. J. EMMANUEL d'ANJOU (Rimouski) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, the Bloc Populaire Canadien,—to which I am proud to belong—and I myself have asked the government on several occasions to help, in every way possible, families and especially large ones.

Until the present session, the government turned a deaf ear to our pressing and oft-reiterated appeals in favour of this country's most valuable asset, our manpower.

On February 3, 1944, during the debate on the speech from the throne, I stated the following, which I quote from *Hansard*:

The speech from the throne contains the announcement concerning the adoption of family allowances by the government. I hope that this is not simply an election campaign promise but that, on the contrary, a bill will be brought down in this connection, in the course of this session. Allowances should not be granted exclusively to families of five or six children, but should apply to all families irrespective of their size.

Families of ten or twelve children are not a scarcity in the province of Quebec. Some are even larger. Personally, I am one of fifteen children, twelve boys and three girls, and I am convinced other families just as large can still be found in the constituency of Rimouski. The government, who had always refused to help large families has now a unique occasion to do so through family allowances. This is not the first time I take the opportunity of pleading this cause in the House and I shall continue to do so until the government decides to be fair to large families.

For us French Canadians, large families are our means of survival, and, as long as, in the province of Quebec, large numbers of children are brought into the world, we shall not need refugees or immigrants from whatever country