if the child is in the 12-to-18 age bracket, the allowance will be $20 and the reduction will again be $4.95, so the actual allowance will be $15.05. If that family has two children, the reduction will be $3.30 for children in the 0-to-12 age bracket, leaving a possible allowance of $11.70, and for children aged 12 to 18, the reduction will be $3.30, so the actual allowance will be $16.70.

For a family with four children earning a basic income of $4,500, plus $1,500 as allowable income, they will receive a basic allowance of $15 per child under the age of 12 and $20 for children between 12 and 18.

If a family has 5, 6, 8 or 10 children, the allowances will be the same because they have reached the maximum. So, this means there is no increase for them.

In the case of a family having an income of $8,000 with one child, allowances will be $3.45 if the child is 12 years old or less, and $8.45 for a child aged 12 to 18. For a family with two children, allowances will be $5.10 for the first one and $10.10 for the second one.

A family having an income of $10,000 and one child will receive no allowance where the child is aged 0 to 12. For a child aged 12 to 18, the allowance will be $1.85. If such a family has 2, 3 or 4 children, it will receive allowances of the order of $1.80 for each child aged 12 or less and $6.80 for children over 12.

I quote these figures to show that if this schedule is to bring some improvements in the case of low income families, we should increase the maximum allowable income from $10,000 to $15,000.

In fact, the present cost of rents, building and clothing is quite high and we are being taxed from left and right. So it would be an acknowledgement of the country's genuine wealth, and the fact that Canadians are hard-working people if this income were increased to $15,000.

Would Canada be worse off for this? I do not think so because this would give a higher purchasing power that would permit families to buy more. In buying more they would pay more taxes, the government would obtain higher revenues and in turn our economy would pick up.

Will this new act provide more money to Canadians? From the statement of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) I understand that under the previous family allowance scheme, the government was spending $800 million a year and it is reported that the new act will increase this amount by $150 million.

This is all nice and well, but I am convinced that more could be done without demagogy and without depriving affluent Canadians or reducing our assistance to developing countries.

I wish to emphasize this because it is sometimes said that Social Credit members are opposing our assistance to developing countries. This is not true. We are in favour of helping developing countries in proportion to our own resources. We are also in favour of assisting underfed families and those who lack housing, food and clothing.

The text I have here is recent. Its title is:

We are not truly Christians unless we accept to share the plight of the poor.

It emanates from the Episcopate of Canada. What does it say?

The scandal of poverty and injustice throughout the world is flagrant. Twenty per cent of the people of the planet own 80 per cent of its resources.

Canada itself, with its vast resources, is far from presenting a comforting image to those who thirst after human righteousness and dignity. One of every three Canadians lives socially, economically, politically and culturally on the fringe of Canadian community life.

Present housing conditions, the lack of balance resulting from underdevelopment of some regions of Canada are an insult to justice and a canker at the very heart of one of the world's richest countries. We are all, collectively, responsible for such a situation.

Notwithstanding the fascinating horizons opened before us, our era, alas, is the source of many disillusionments. Economists contend that, for the first time in history, everyone could live well. Newly acquired knowledge and technological discoveries can transform old dreams into living realities.

We could do this. Do we really want to? How strong is our sense of justice? How sincere is our love? How steadfast are our convictions? Are we not facing the tragedy of collective irresponsibility? We forget the poor so easily. We are barely inclined to facilitate their participation in decisions concerning themselves. And yet that is a primary demand of man's dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to quote from this text because it comes not from politicians, but from people able to have a really objective view of the situation and to ponder upon it. We politicians should take heed of it and act in such a way as to achieve a maximum of justice in our society which, I know, will always remain imperfect. However, there is nothing to prevent our trying to do more.

In closing, I should like to mention the opinion held by a king who made available to his subjects the money required to really live as a society, to exchange goods and services. I am referring to St. Louis, King of France, who said that the first duty of a king was to mint money when there was not enough of it to guarantee his subjects a sound economy.

Indeed, I feel that it is the first duty of a responsible government to issue the credits required to that end. I know our opponents will say: There he goes again, speaking of money! The minister spoke about it—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, public bills, notices of motions and private bills.

• (1600)

[*English*]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEASURE TO RESTRAIN THE USE OF TOBACCO

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock) moved that Bill C-10, to restrain the use of tobacco, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this bill which is again before us is one of three similar bills having the same general objective which I have introduced over a number of years. Like