

Old Age and Veterans' Pensions

ing for the government, to hell with everything. I will go further. We already see that in the case of those who, for instance, work overtime in plants, and are literally robbed of the fruit of their overtime through income tax. What does that fellow tell himself? He says to himself: Do you think I am going to work for the government? To hell with the government, I am going home. I am not doing any overtime. And who could blame him?

The ceiling, that is what discourages all personal initiative. Everybody admits that all minds are not equal. Some people are more intelligent than others. Some people have inventiveness while others will never invent anything. The government in power now will not invent much in the years to come.

An hon. Member: Taxes.

Mr. Caouette: That's right, taxes. It is the only invention we have, taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the Créditistes come up with a reasonable solution. The ministers and the government members know that. If war broke out tomorrow, would there be a money problem in Canada to supply our soldiers with equipment and weapons. Not only "pea-shooters," but good rifles. Would there be a lack of money to feed those soldiers and clothe them decently?

In 1939, when war broke out, there was a great economic crisis in Canada. We did not get money from those who did not have any. We created \$200 million in the Bank of Canada, through the then Minister of Finance, Mr. Ilesley. I say it once more, we found \$200 million. Then Saint-Pierre l'Ermitte and all kinds of war plants sprang up. They provided work for all men, women and young girls. There were 800,000 soldiers and now we cannot create 600,000 jobs. But to create 800,000 jobs for soldiers in time of war that is something we are able to do. It is preposterous, but we tolerate it.

Mr. Speaker, it is too bad to hear all the time that we have no money. And all that time old people are getting older and are worrying too. There is no security for them. Medical cards that are granted when a supplement is provided. But all our older citizens do not have that card. They have to ask for it in writing from the government, and some cannot write—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired, and unless the House
[Mr. Caouette.]

gives unanimous consent, he cannot proceed. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed, for five minutes.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. colleagues. I will need only two more minutes, even if I am offered five. Therefore, it cannot be said that I am greedy and demanding a national dividend immediately.

Mr. Speaker, all this to say that the motion as drafted is very much acceptable. We support its intent because all the people and groups mentioned in the motion interest us to the utmost.

For many years now, we have been asking for \$150 per month for old age pensions. We are now asking for a similar basic pension for the blind, the disabled and for each and every category of people since production in Canada can sustain it.

If our production failed, we should necessarily have to turn to it, but that is not the problem. The problem is that we are saddled with a production surplus. I see that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) is supporting me. He knows there is a production surplus, even in his own province and in his own riding.

The other day, I was strolling down St. Catherine Street, close to my hon. friend's riding and there were sales advertised in every shopwindow: season sales, off-season sales, quarterly sales, underwear sales, for my very good friend over there. Sales everywhere. Unfortunately, people walk right by because they have no money.

The problem is a pocketbook problem.

I am asking the government to think in term of pocketbook rather than in terms of production.

When our Canadian housewives have enough purchasing power to go and buy themselves clothes, food or what not, and when our breadwinner enjoy security through the purchasing power that will assure them of at least a fair standard of well-being, then, the government of Canada will have served efficiently the nation.

[*English*]

Mr. Barney Danson (York North): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise to take part in this debate which is one that touches us all very deeply. I regret that the motion is worded in such manner that many of us who sympathize with its spirit and intent cannot