

The Address—Mr. Irvine

after paying into the plan until his retirement, all he qualifies for is a pension of \$62 or \$63? How can a family live in dignity on \$62 or \$63 per month? I sincerely hope there will be many amendments to this plan, and there must be if it is going to be the kind of comprehensive plan which the people of Canada envisaged, and which some of them still envisage. However, they are gradually becoming acquainted with what are the actual benefits.

I also mentioned deductions which had to be made in regard to the 11 per cent sales tax. I am not going to say too much about this because I spoke on this subject when the Bill was before the House, but I do think that it was a very unfair tax. I think it directly affects a very sensitive part of our general economy, and I hope and trust that this tax will not have a derogatory effect on our future business.

In 1962, Mr. Speaker, at the time when the then Government in power saw fit, in the interests of Canadianism, to devalue the Canadian dollar, there was a great hue and cry all across this country, asking why do such a thing, and imputing that making our dollar into a 92½ cent piece was a terrible thing to do. I fail to find, Mr. Speaker, any indication in the Throne Speech that there is going to be any change in this regard, and I am just wondering what has happened. If the then Opposition thought that that action was so bad and that we were committing such a crime then I say that today by not changing the situation they are simply compounding the felony. But there is no mention of that matter, Sir.

I should also like to mention one other very important item in connection with the Civil Service Commission. I have here a letter from a man—I will be very pleased to give his name and address if so desired—dated 19th September, 1964, which says in part:

Many Civil Service employment competitions provide, through the Civil Service Act, a statutory preference for veterans. This I am led to believe applies only to those veterans who qualify under Overseas Service. In many cases during a national emergency, volunteers, through no fault of their own, possibly because of specialized skills and by orders of higher authority, were never posted outside of the country; this of course disqualifies them from the previously mentioned Veterans Preference. At the close of World War II these veterans, whose contribution to the war effort was as vital as many of those who served outside of the country, received less recognition through reduced gratuities. Is it fair that this discriminatory policy continue in employment opportunities?

I would say, Sir, that this Commission seems to be in need of a good general overhaul.

[Mr. Irvine.]

There is nothing in the Speech that indicates that the Government are even going to take a good hard look at it.

One other matter concerning which I saw nothing in the main estimates or in the Throne Speech is the plight of the retarded child. I went through the estimates pretty thoroughly and I found under the Department of National Health and Welfare that the Canadian Association for Retarded Children are going to receive a grant of \$25,000. I contend, Sir, that this is grossly inadequate. It is just a mere drop in the bucket. Many of these children, with proper training and a little bit of spending on our part, could be brought up to be very useful citizens in our society. I would hope that that Department might take another good look at this question and perhaps do something in the future to help this very important work. Perhaps through the suggested Canada Assistance Plan the Government may take a look at this problem, and I hope they will come up with something which will be very worth while.

I have received, Mr. Speaker, a very heart-breaking letter, the sort of letter that Members of Parliament regularly receive, and I think it raises a very important matter, important to every person who is a Canadian. This gentleman writes to me under date March 10 as follows:

I took my family to the U.S. Consulate, Windsor, January 26, 1965, to obtain our visas. My wife and daughter were examined together, Barry my son was examined separately from myself. He was asked by the medical officer what age he left school and was told 17 years. The doctor then asked what grade, and my son told him grade 5. The doctor asked Barry what 6 x 8 were and he answered 48. He also asked how many days there were in a year.

And the young lad told him 365. Then there was a delay for a while and the writer of this letter had to go and see the U.S. Consul. He continues:

I was advised to get a letter from Mr. Mason at the Workshop. I also got a letter from our doctor. Mr. Speare from the Board of Education phoned the doctor at the U.S. Consulate and also wrote a letter. Mr. Speare has interviewed Barry and knows his capabilities.

Then further on in the letter, Sir, he says that he and his family were allowed entry into the United States but that his son, because of this incapacity of his, was not allowed entry into the United States. He was allowed to enter, Sir, but without a visa and he must come back every six months for one day.