

Increased Cost of Living

will take it up, refine it, perfect it, introduce it and make it effective for the people of Canada.

We hear a great deal these days about parliament and our political institutions. I suggest that one of the reasons that there is an alleged discredit of parliament in the public mind has to do with the fact that people in Canada, including politicians, do not often understand the full value and function of parliament in a democratic society. We must debate issues. Every viewpoint is worth while. It is unfortunate that in this atmosphere the rucious little group in the corner can use generalization, overstatement and misinformation to give people in this country the impression that things are different from what they are. When we look across the world and consider the problems of all the countries and compare them with the problems we have in Canada, we can see that we have a lot to be thankful for, not the least of which is the fact—

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Cashin: I would be very glad to answer a question put by my hon. friend, the honourable socialist, in the corner.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Has the hon. member yet had a chance to look at the third annual review of the Economic Council of Canada and see the average annual income in his province compared with the rest of Canada? If he has looked at this review, does he still say that these great things have been done in the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Cashin: Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of question I would expect from the hon. member. As a matter of fact I have had an opportunity to look at this document. I have the third annual review of the Economic Council of Canada here. I would say to the hon. gentleman, if he is unhappy that the average income in Newfoundland is still as low as it is, that he should be cognizant of the fact that without Liberal leadership in the federal and provincial fields the average income in Newfoundland would be much lower than it is today. I can assure the hon. member that the improvement has been achieved because of continuing efforts in the federal and provincial fields. If he wants to introduce provincial politics into this matter, I suggest to him that the Economic Council last year laid great emphasis on education, and I would ask the hon.

member to name any other province in Canada that can take a place ahead of Newfoundland in introducing imaginative programs aimed at providing greater opportunities in education to the young people of that province.

No other provincial government so quickly grasped the significance of the last report of the Economic Council of Canada, and no provincial government will so quickly grasp the significance of its reports in the future as the government of Newfoundland. We in the province of Newfoundland are a pragmatic people. We purged ourselves of any false emotional nationalism in 1949. Since then we have been interested in performance, and the people of Newfoundland have supported the Liberal party federally and provincially because it has been the party that has performed.

There are a great many other areas, particularly in the field of social welfare, in which this Liberal government under its Prime Minister has taken the leadership. This has not only been the greatest government in the history of Canada, but it has a record that is unmatched in the democracies of the world in introducing social welfare legislation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cashin: Listen to the moans, Mr. Speaker. These are the moans of sour grapes. They know these facts are true, although my hon. and misguided friends in the corner may find them difficult to accept. I think it is a great pity for Canadian politics that a man of the intellectual ability and calibre of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, a man for whom I have the greatest respect, should waste his talents in the little band of not-so-happy warriors in the corner of this chamber. I think it is a tragedy because we could benefit a great deal from the contribution he could make within our caucus in making this a greater Liberal party. Certainly for my part I extend to the hon. member an invitation to join us.

In the field of social welfare the Canada Pension Plan is the best plan of its kind that has been introduced anywhere in the world. This plan was introduced by our administration. The youth allowances program was introduced by this administration. So far as education is concerned, we have instituted a program that makes available loans to university students. Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?