

*Canada Pension Plan*

more and more people aged 50, 55 and 60 lose their jobs because they are being replaced by automation in industries which, for the last 20, 25 or 30 years, enabled them to earn their living; those people hardly find something to keep them busy, to assure for themselves and their families a reasonable salary on which they can live.

Surveys are being made throughout the world on the effects of automation. I feel that the problem of aging could also be studied.

Socialists, members of the New Democratic party are happy about this great step toward social security made possible by Bill No. C-136. I wonder whether the utopia of full employment is not being recognized by the adoption of Bill No. C-136.

Socialists welcome such action and it is even suggested that this privilege should be granted to persons of 65 years of age. It is probably in order that the official record will show them to have been the promoters of social security in Canada.

On this matter I wish to point out that if we take into consideration geriatrics and progress, many persons who belong to our working classes cannot find today adequate employment under normal conditions in Canada.

This is proved by statistics. From 1955 to 1965, that is during the last ten years, Canada never had fewer than 400,000 unemployed persons. In fact, we had as many as 700,000 unemployed, including family heads aged 35, 40 and 45 years who could not find a job.

If we had had legislation enabling a man who spent 40 years of his life building this country to retire with dignity at the age of 60, family heads aged from 35 to 40 years could have earned an honest living in some job, while men who had reached the age of 60 or 65 could have withdrawn from the labour market.

During that period extending from 1955 to 1965, many youths aged 16 to 18 never came on the labour market because we encouraged them to pursue their studies, to the extent that today very few Canadians between the ages of 18 and 20 do not attend school.

This transformation occurred during the last decade.

That labour force of persons aged 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 did not clog the labour market, because they pursued their studies. And yet we still have regularly in Canada between 400,000 and 700,000 unemployed persons.

Is that not sufficient proof that while some people find satisfaction in the fact that they were the promoters of social security, as mentioned earlier by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, we were right, and are still right, while considering this amendment to Bill No. C-136, to request what we have been asking for, for at least 10 or maybe 20 years in the province of Quebec, namely a pension with a test if it is considered absolutely necessary, at the age of 60; a pension, as of age 60, for those who cannot find a job or who, due to ill health, cannot get an adequate income to live decently in a country as affluent as Canada; and at 65, without a test.

We have been clamouring for this for the past 20 years. However, a little over a year ago, when social security benefits were raised from \$65 to \$75, our N.D.P. friends were satisfied and most happy with this increase.

Today, they would like to be the only ones to foster adequate social security.

**Mr. Prittie:** That is right.

**Mr. Perron:** Mr. Chairman, adequate social security implies the very principle of social justice. Let us be fair to those who have given 30 years of their lives to make Canada what it is today. The great wealth of our country is not to be found in the homes of the Canadian consumers who could surely enjoy a little more comfort and live in dignity and decency. But, we have brought forward Bill No. C-136 which will take away in advance, in some cases, what savings low income earners could have made and, in other cases, deprive some of them of a decent living, if the human point of view and the Canadian cost of living are taken into consideration.

Looking at the contributions which will have been made or at the benefits which will have been given in 30, 40 or 50 years from now, it is no wonder that Bill No. C-136 is so complicated.

I conclude my remarks with some quotations which are not in today's *Hansard* but which I would like to draw to the attention of the charming Minister of National Health and Welfare, even if she has said that we know nothing about Bill No. C-136 or social security.

However, before doing so, Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that what was true yesterday will also be true tomorrow, because truth is eternal.

I will read some excerpts from various documents which deal precisely with old age