

Mackenzie King, initiated a program of unemployment insurance and family allowances, to be followed later by old age pensions and welfare schemes introduced by the present government, under the leadership of the present Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent.

The motivating force in effecting these measures is well known to the honourable members of this chamber. Its purpose was clearly stated by the present Prime Minister, prior to and during the introduction of these programs, in an expression of belief in the principle that all Canadians should share in Canada's prosperity. Through these we have achieved a more equal distribution of the country's wealth, materially improved the positions of low and middle income groups, which comprise the majority of the population, and established a floor under the purchasing power of all communities.

The initiation of these programs has attained a special significance in my province, Nova Scotia, where in 1933 the gross income from lumbering and fishing production, two of our major industries, did not exceed \$11 million, whereas a purchasing power of over \$38 million was created in the province during 1950-51 through the distribution of family allowances, old age pensions, unemployment insurance, veterans allowances, and health and welfare services. I could mention here the effect of provincial subsidies, but I did not include that because it is not really relevant to the point I am making.

For almost two decades Canada's progress has been spectacular. This has been achieved under the guidance of two great Canadians who, by their vision, leadership and tireless devotion to Canada, have made it first among the peoples of the world who value freedom, political stability and sound administration. National unity within our own borders, our proud place in the British Commonwealth of Nations and our unselfish approach to the problems confronting less fortunate countries are the elements which have brought us to our present position of pre-eminence and gained for us respect and admiration in the councils of the free nations of the world. The continuation of this leadership and the pursuit of the government's policies in promoting production at home and continuing stimulation of world trade will assure to both present and future generations a way of life and a standard of living unsurpassed in any part of the world.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, as a matter of general practice, I think the leader of the opposition adjourns the debate at this time. I exercise that prerogative, and move that the debate be adjourned.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned.

CRIMINAL CODE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson moved the second reading of Bill O, an Act respecting the Criminal Law.

He said: Honourable senators, I regret that while speaking to this bill last evening I unintentionally mislead the house in general, and my honourable friend from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck), in particular, in suggesting that my colleague the Minister of Justice would come to the Senate to explain this bill in detail today. Honourable senators will recall that a similar bill to amend the criminal law was introduced last session and was explained in detail by the minister. My honourable friend from Toronto-Trinity said that he would prefer to hear what the minister had to say on the details of the new bill before expressing himself. I had not discussed with the minister the question of his coming to this house, but had assumed from our conversations that he would be here. When I asked him today if he would be here, he indicated that he was quite willing to come, but felt that he would serve no useful purpose by doing so, because the bill now before us is substantially the same as the one presented last session.

It should be pointed out however, that this bill embodies certain recommendations made by the sub-committee of this house as well as some made by the legal profession and other bodies. The minister felt that the present measure should be treated as a general revision of the criminal law. That being so, he was making preparations to come before the appropriate committee of this house to explain the measure in detail and outline all the recommendation made, some of which are not incorporated in the measure before us.

I have felt, honourable senators, that I owed to the house this explanation of the procedure which the minister intends to follow, and under the circumstances, I would ask the house to be content with a brief explanation which I shall now attempt to give.

Honourable senators will recall that Bill H-8, a measure to revise the Criminal Code introduced last session, was referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, which in turn referred it to a sub-committee. Because of the adjournment of parliament, the sub-committee was unable to complete its work and present its final report. It did, however, bring in an interim report recommending certain changes and suggesting certain clauses be stood over for discussion in the standing committee.