

Time Allocation

are 70 years old and have been living on pensions for the last eight years that are based on the standard of living during the best six years of their working lives. One of my relatives retired in 1969 after 33 years of public service to this country. He retired on a pension which was based on a 1969 standard of living. He is being asked to take a permanent cutback today which is based on his standard of living in 1966.

Public servants who are actively working for us can continue to negotiate for increases in their standard of living in the future. I regret to have taken so much time, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for listening.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am not happy to be speaking this afternoon. I had hoped that the Conservatives would have shown some courage and joined with us to stop the Government from passing this legislation. I cannot believe that a political Party, vying for Government as it claims to be doing, would be in a position to put oil company profits ahead of the affairs of pensioners who already have inadequate incomes. I thought back to those bells ringing day after day on behalf of the profits of oil companies, those who make the donations to the Tory Party. They know who is fighting for them.

Mr. Taylor: We were fighting on behalf of the people who were losing their jobs.

Mr. Deans: It was 15 days of bell-ringing in support of oil company profits. We could not even get 15 minutes out of them in support of the pensioners of Canada. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, if that does not put this into perspective, nothing will.

Here we were with an opportunity to stop this Government dead in its tracks. Here we were with an opportunity to demand that this Government reconsider its legislative program which is normally called six and five. Here we were with a chance to demand that this Government take into account the most recent economic statements being offered by a variety of groups and individuals in the country, many of whom surprised me. We were in a position to demand from the Government that it not proceed with this legislation and that it take into account the views of Ian Sinclair, the views of the Bishops and the bank chairmen and presidents. We were in a position to stop this Government from proceeding with these Bills. Where were the Tories?

Mr. Taylor: In here voting.

Mr. Deans: They were lying at the feet of the Liberal Cabinet, as always. They were lying at their feet asking "Can we help you?" They are saying to the Liberals, "Can we come in quickly and help you get the legislation through?"

I say to anyone watching on television that it does not take a genius to see the hypocrisy. For days they bled all over their desks. There they were, the champions of the oppressed, fighting to maintain decent income levels for senior citizens.

Mr. Kristiansen: Was that them?

Mr. Deans: The Tories. Time after time they were standing in their place in righteous indignation demanding the Government withdraw the legislation, demanding the Liberal backbenchers, poor souls that they are, join with them to defeat the legislation. Then we say to them, "Here is the way. We will stop this Government today. We will say to the Government, 'No, according to the rules, Parliament may not sit until the Government is prepared to consider the alternatives that are available to it' ". We say to the Conservatives, if they are sincere about their position and truly stand for the oppressed, let them join us. I say to Your Honour, I was outside the House. They literally ran into the House of Commons to vote with the Government—

• (1720)

Mr. Taylor: You were supposed to be here too.

Mr. Deans: —to get the vote over with so the Government could go ahead with Bill C-133 and get it passed.

Mr. Taylor: More baloney!

Mr. Deans: It is interesting that the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), who is constantly chattering away, says that this is baloney. As an astute observer, Your Honour would recognize the fact that every single word that I have uttered is absolutely true.

Mr. Taylor: Absolutely wrong.

Mr. Deans: Every word.

Mr. Taylor: Wrong.

Mr. Deans: I see the Hon. Member for Bow River. This is the same Hon. Member who, together with his Leader, his House leader and all the other Tories, was so eager to pass Bill C-124: "By God, yes, we will squeeze these civil servants".

Mr. Taylor: But you would not take it.

Mr. Deans: The Conservatives said that it would not affect the pensioners.

Mr. Taylor: You would not take a cut in your salary.

Mr. Deans: We said to them at the time that it would affect Family Allowances. They did not care. They said, "Oh, no, get it passed passed right away".

Mr. Taylor: You wanted every dollar you could get. You would not take—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) has the floor. I suggest that we listen to him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: I appreciate that intervention, Mr. Speaker. I need your protection from these people.

Mr. Taylor: You sure do. From the people.