

Social Security

opportunity to pay a special tribute to Dr. Jean Gregoire and Dr. Beaudet, whom you know very well and who made such a success of setting up health units in Temiscouata county when he was stationed there. These are men of great heart. They understand human misery and, like the Minister of National Health and Welfare, they are always ready to help those who suffer. They deserve commendation, not only in this House of Commons but anywhere their names are mentioned.

There is no control over the expenditure of family allowances and I suggest to the minister that he should get in touch with the provincial governments. Arrangements should be made to have those who receive family allowances visited once a year or every two years by the nurses of the health units so that it will be known whether family allowances are being used for the purposes for which they are given.

There are many poor families who live on the family allowances. The father may be ill or disabled and the mother may have many children to look after. Sometimes the only income is the family allowance cheque. That is pitiful, but it is more pitiful when some of the children are incapacitated, some from birth, some because of accident or others because of illness. They have not the means to pay for their own care. The situation in my constituency is no different from that of any other constituency in Canada. There are some human beings who are physically infirm or abnormal. They may suffer from any illness or disability. The rich may go to a hospital and always find a room but these other people cannot always do so. Sometimes they go to the hospital. Sometimes they live far away in the back country. They are isolated and they need help.

I read a Canadian Press dispatch last week telling about a woman who was alone in her cabin in the north country. Her husband was a lumberjack and was far away from home. The nearest settlement was quite a distance away. She was suffering from an attack of appendicitis. She had to go to the nearest settlement. She had two young children. She put them on a sleigh and brought them to the nearest settlement in the cold of winter. There was nobody in the house but the door was open. She could telephone somewhere else. One of the children had his feet frozen and had to be operated on later. I think of that woman of the far north of one of the western provinces—I believe it was British Columbia—who was alone with her young children, became ill, and had to walk so far with them in the cold.

That is a deserving case, and there should be an organization through which the children could be looked after. It is probably done in all the provinces. On one occasion a man from my constituency was taken sick in the province of British Columbia. I wrote to the then minister of health of that province who saw to it that he was hospitalized there. In the same way people from other provinces who fall ill in the province of Quebec are looked after when the occasion arises. This is a matter of Christian charity.

Last Sunday evening, Mr. Speaker, you probably listened to the excellent broadcast by Rev. Father Desmarais, a Dominican, at 7.30 p.m. over the trans-Canada network of the C.B.C. He spoke about charity and talked about a very well dressed old lady who was attending a melodrama in Montreal, or wherever it was. It was called "The Two Orphans". It was pathetic at times and she shed tears. She had her handkerchief in her hand and she was shedding tears while listening to the story of the two orphans. After the play was over the priest stood at the door of the theatre and the old lady came out. A limousine was waiting for her, and two little kids in rags were asking for charity. They had no rubbers, their clothes were torn, and they seemed to be suffering from the cold. They said to the lady: "Charity, please, in the name of God." She said: "How dare you impertinent children bother me when I am on my way to my car?"

I know that is not the feeling of any member of the house. We all understand that according to the doctrine of Christ the way to deal with our neighbours must be entirely different. That is not the way our Lord taught the gospel during His lifetime. There is one thing I want to tell the minister, and he probably knows it. I refer to the extent and depth of the love of parents for their children. One may read the resolution and say: We will send these invalids to the nearest hospital.

Mr. Low: It does not say that, does it?

Mr. Pouliot: No. I say that we may say: We will send the invalids to the hospital. I want to tell the minister that the love of parents of disabled children is so deep that they do not want them to be taken away from them under any consideration. The mother wants to look after her sick child.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): That is right.

Mr. Pouliot: And when the father comes home at night he always inquires about the sick child before thinking of the others who are in good health. It is precisely because of that affection which I might call deep love,