

result showed that the leader of the revolutionary movement in Biafra, whom the Leader of the New Democratic Party held up as an example to all, was a man compared to whom John Dillinger would appear to be an angel. The Prime Minister was right in his actions, and I am sure we as Canadians and as Members of Parliament are glad that he took the position he did.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the Biafran situation, and other crises around the world, some people in this House are eager to criticize that great nation to the south of us. Certainly, that country can be criticized. It is not perfect. Certainly, in respect of Viet Nam I have heard the former Leader of the New Democratic Party condemn the United States. Most of us in this House realize the United States is involved in a treacherous and tough situation there. Even many people in the United States; and their leaders, are critical of their government in this regard. However, the fact is that when the United States went in there it did so to defend a way of life which existed in that country at that time. It is all very well to have hindsight and to be critical of the greatest nation in the world, our neighbour, but I ask you, would you rather have the Russians to the south of you or the Chinese. Personally, I would take the United States each and every time.

It annoys me when I hear the continued attacks on the United States by people in this House of Commons. They talk about our neighbour, but do not talk about the plight of the Lithuanians, the Estonians or the Latvians. They forget about what happened in 1956 when the Russian tanks rolled down the streets of Budapest and the people had little more than rotten apples to throw at them. What about Czechoslovakia? At every opportunity, these people vent their wrath upon the nation to the south of us.

Mr. Rowland: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please.

Mr. Whicher: One would wonder what the favourite color of the Leader of the New Democratic Party is. After reading what some people in Canada have said, I would think that if he happened to be a female he would wear pink dresses all the time. A few minutes ago I heard the Leader of the New Democratic Party say that this budget would not make him jump with joy. I heard him say exactly the same thing on television. Although all people may not jump with joy, I know there are some who are very pleased with the budget. We happen to have about 1,500,000 old age pensioners in Canada. There has been criticism that these people were given only an additional amount of 42 cents per month. Let us look at the facts. One third of the old age pensioners in Canada, those who are single, are today drawing \$135 a month. Married couples are drawing \$255 a month. These are the highest old age pensions anywhere in the world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whicher: Not one single cent of tax is involved in so far as this type of old age pension is concerned. Let

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me point out what the tax situation is in other countries in the world. Let us look at a country which is very dear to many of us in this Chamber, the United Kingdom. For more than 500 years, the United Kingdom has been a mighty fine little island. It has done a great deal for the whole world, and not just for itself. Today it is drowning in a disease called socialism, a disease which the Leader of the New Democratic Party sticks supports. However, he has the unadulterated nerve to criticize the government for not giving enough to the old age pensioners. When I look at the figures for today, June 28, 1971, I see that a single old age pensioner in Canada receives \$2,250, tax free. In England, he pays a tax on every nickel over \$1,197. Some system of government—socialism! You can drown in it if you so desire, but I do not want to have anything to do with it. We see here that as of January 1, 1971 a married taxpayer under 65 will have \$2,950 tax free. In England, the amount is \$1,171.80.

● (4:00 p.m.)

I will tell you about another group of people who are not the least bit unhappy about the budget, namely, the one million veterans in Canada. Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that in the western world today there are only two countries that think well enough of their veterans to have ministers of veterans affairs. One is France and the other is Canada. As a Canadian, I am proud we have one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whicher: You may very well say, what has that to do with the budget? I will tell you. Our veterans who were unfortunately disabled in world war I, world war II or in Korea, receive the highest pension of any country in the whole damn world, and I am happy for the veterans of Canada. Then the Leader of the NDP mentioned the Carter Commission. Let me tell you there is not a veteran in Canada who does not understand the implications, because it was the Carter Commission that said a buck is a buck so the veterans pensions should be taxed. That is the sort of thing the Leader of the NDP supports and that is what I am against.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whicher: He said he was in favour of some things in the budget. I could not make a note of them all, but one of the things he was in favour of was assistance for working mothers. Perhaps he is right when he suggests that there should have been such a provision a long time ago, but the fact is that there is one now and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) deserves credit for that.

Then, there is the matter of small businesses and corporations. The Leader of the NDP hates the word "corporations". He does not like the idea that the corporation tax in the province of Ontario, for example, is now 52 per cent, the highest corporation tax anywhere in the world. The minister thinks it should be reduced to 46 per cent. The Leader of the NDP does not appreciate the fact that our corporations have to do business in competition with U.S. corporations. I wonder if he understands that in that great socialistic country, the democracy of England, instead of there being a 52 per cent corporation tax