

*Social and Economic Security*

ing the citizens the compulsory means test at both federal and provincial levels.

It is quite important to remember that those benefits will be tax-free.

I pointed out earlier how important the integration of that program into a comprehensive income security scheme would be for all Canadians, a scheme taking into account the need for both protection and welfare.

An important aspect of that integration is how the plan will complement the federal unemployment insurance program. While continuing to draw unemployment insurance, the unemployed who have a large family will be encouraged to find a job. In addition, the plan fits equally well with the provincial as well as the federal welfare programs.

What are the basic factors of that total income security program? We have already explained the special role that will be played by the Family Income Security Program.

We have also shown that it will be closely related to unemployment insurance. Major changes will be effected within the unemployment insurance plan as from January 1972. Such changes will protect to a greater extent the income of those people in the labour force. In fact, there will be less dependent on social assistance or welfare and the unemployed will be in a better position. A considerable improvement will be the introduction within the framework of unemployment insurance of sickness and maternity benefits.

The large amounts of money which the Unemployment Insurance Commission is paying to Canadian citizens represent another contribution of the federal government to income security. Unemployment insurance is meant to improve the economic situation of the needy.

Old age pension and its guaranteed income supplement are another way for the federal government to help Canadians. In the five years preceding 1971, the old age pension was considerably changed. The eligible age was gradually lowered from 70 to 65 and the basic benefit was raised from \$75 to the current rate of \$80 a month.

In 1967, there was recognition of the particular needs of older people with low income through the introduction of the guaranteed income supplement linked to the old age pension. The supplementary benefit could reach \$30 a month according to the established income.

In accordance with the intention of the federal government of changing direct payments for the benefit of those who needed them most, the guaranteed income supplement has now been increased. The higher allowances have been effective since last April.

From April 1972, a married couple who receives a guaranteed income supplement could get as much as \$260.10 a month instead of \$255, and a single person could receive \$137.70 instead of \$135.

In 1971, about a million people benefitted, in part or in full, from changes to the guaranteed income supplement.

The recipients of this supplement are also entitled to a maximum increase of 2 per cent a year of the combined amount of their old age pension and their guaranteed income supplement. This measure is intended to fight the cost of living increase.

[Mr. Gendron.]

The federal government will have paid, in 1971-72, in old age pensions and guaranteed income supplement, about \$2.2 billion. This money will directly fall into the pockets of retired Canadians.

Since its implementation in 1965, the Canada or Quebec Pension Plans are viewed by labour as the corner-stone of social security. They not only supply contributors with a retirement pension over and above the old age pension, but they are also conceived to protect dependents in case of death or disability.

However, the Canada Pension Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan differ from the old age pension and the guaranteed income supplement and the new Family Income Security Plan in that they are contributory and extend to self-employed persons as well as to employees and employers who contribute to it.

Although the Minister of National Health and Welfare recommended technical changes in his white paper in order to increase Canada Pension Plan benefits, these changes will only be implemented in January 1973.

The reason for this is that a three-year delay is required by law in the case of major changes in order to allow for consultation with the provinces.

The additional protection provided by these changes for widows, the disabled and their dependents will help those who very often have to turn to welfare. Finally, of course, the Canada Assistance Plan allows the federal government to support provincial programs in this area. The federal government assumes half the cost of welfare which the provinces provide for people with no income, or whose income does not allow them to meet their most basic needs. Ottawa also assumes half the cost of provincial prevention and rehabilitation services.

Old age pension and the guaranteed income supplement, the Canada Pension Plan, unemployment insurance, the Canada Assistance Plan and, now, the Family Income Security Plan are altogether essential steps on the road leading towards a comprehensive income security plan in Canada.

We realize that it does not mean the end of all social issues in Canada, that failing a miraculous cure all legislators and all the people should try by every possible means to find a solution to the serious poverty problem.

[English]

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Before I recognize the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard), hon. members might permit me to read the proceedings for the adjournment motion this evening. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg)—External Affairs—South Africa—Government policy respecting position of non-whites; the hon. member