

guaranteed annual income and apparently, according to newspaper reports, it was rejected.

We have been advocating it for a long time in this House and we are quite pleased to note that the government is beginning to pick our fine administrative and economic principles to arrive to better solutions.

Indeed, those sound programs and principles could unfortunately be spoiled or destroyed by complex red tape which the minister's statement makes us foresee. It would be very bad if the best social security programs in Canada were drawn up and if the federal government made bureaucrats responsible for administering them in such a way that their aims would be completely missed.

We do not have all the details of the implementation of the social security program that the hon. minister means to propose, which is understandable, because he says that he is going to consult the provinces and try to come to an agreement with them on the details of its implementation.

Before ending, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that it seems to me that there is more cream than cake in the minister's statement, since the minister said that the increase in Canadians' net income will be \$800 million.

Incomes totalling \$800 million are quite inadequate in the present economic situation if any attempt is to be made to settle the problem of a guaranteed annual income for those who need it, for Canada now needs at least \$30 billion worth of purchasing power for her unsold production. If \$800 million are all we have to buy a \$30 billion national production, which is unsold because there is no purchasing power, I get the impression that there is a lot more cream than cake, and that the solutions that the government recommends, though very fine in their intention, will achieve very little in practice.

The minister does not say—I thought he had in his statement, for I had time to read it—where he is going to get the money for an \$800 million increase in net incomes. The minister does not say he is going to get it in taxes, deficits and debts.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk of increasing purchasing power by \$800 million, it is very important to know whether the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) or the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Stanbury) are not going to introduce in the next few weeks direct or indirect taxation totalling a billion dollars or a billion and a half.

To increase the gross national income, and taxes at the same time, is taking away with one hand what you are giving with the other. As far as social security in Canada is concerned, that means you have accomplished nothing, other than formulating principles to give to the House, for the minister's statement today looks pretty good; he copied some ideas from our election program, but he has not yet described the techniques that we recommended in that program.

Mr. Speaker, there is nevertheless one basic principle in today's statement about which we are pleased, namely the right of every citizen to earn a living, although we are not told if this legislation applies to all Canadians.

In fact, this is a first step in the implementation of a principle recognized by us, the individual citizen's right to live, whatever his income or his occupation. We have been

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recommending it for years and the minister also recognizes it when, on page 3 of his statement, he says:

By removing from existing programs disincentives to seek training and employment, by improving placement services . . .

Mr. Speaker, we know that the whole social security system of Canada is negative and disrupts initiative. That is why, for many years, we have been denouncing it in order that an individual receiving a guaranteed annual income or welfare benefits may at the same time seek employment, which could stimulate his initiative and allow him to contribute his talents.

Mr. Speaker, to close my remarks I congratulate the minister on having finally initiated application of human principles, too late, unfortunately, but better late than never. I hope that next time the minister will come up with a formula allowing full coverage of social security in Canada, for which much more than \$800 million is required. And moreover, it has not been mentioned that citizens are going to be made to pay for achieving this objective.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONCURRENCE IN EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS OF INTERNAL ECONOMY RELATING TO MEMBERS' TELEPHONE EXPENSES

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, by unanimous consent, I should like to move, seconded by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro):

That the extract of the minutes of the Commissioners of Internal Economy relating to telephone expenses, laid upon the table by Mr. Speaker this day, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

TABLING OF INTERIM REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as promised earlier in the House I wish now to table under Standing Order 41(2), the interim report of the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

On the order: Motions:

April 4, 1973—Mr. Howard.

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, presented to the House on April 4, 1973, be concurred in.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as this is the day for unanimous consent on motions, and