

Old Age Security

ment, frequently get inquiries from people between 60 and 65 who cannot work. As the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton said, the rates for welfare, or for social allowances in every province, are a disgrace when you compare those with what we now allow to people who get the old age pension.

Many people cannot work until they are 65. Many women have been left as widows, or have never worked, or cannot work but must, and they find they cannot work beyond age 60. Therefore, I say it is a disgrace that they are allowed a very meagre standard of living until they reach age 65. I urge the government to give serious consideration to announcing that it is prepared to reduce the age at which certain people can get pensions to 60. I hope that will be done in the near future.

Similarly, I urge the government to give serious consideration to amending the Canada Pension Plan so that people who retired voluntarily from the work force between the ages of 60 and 65 are given the full benefits of the Canada Pension Plan.

Lastly I urge the government to look into the matter of private pension plans, so that people who retire, having

contributed for many years to a plan will get a pension that is based on real dollar value, rather than on the number of years that they have contributed to that plan. The pension may have looked good while they were contributing; but those people now find when they retire at age 65 that, in terms of 1973, 1974 or 1975 dollars, it really is not enough for one to live on.

I urge the government to take my suggestions into consideration. They are not radical or revolutionary; they are not things which have not been proposed before. If the government gives consideration to my proposals and brings forward legislation this year, that will be a good beginning but not more than that. Further, these proposals will be met with approval by people in all parts of Canada, regardless of their political affiliation.

[*Translation*]

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Shefford.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for recognizing me, but I would point out that it is six o'clock.

[*English*]

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.