

OLD AGE SECURITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS AND
ESKIMOS IN FILING APPLICATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, some time ago I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether he could assure the house that steps would be taken by officials in the Indian affairs branch to assist the recipients of old age pensions among our Indian people to fill out the necessary application forms for the \$30 a month old age pension supplement. Can the minister say now whether a directive has gone out to the field men to do this and, if so, when was this done?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am informed that this has been done everywhere.

Mr. Simpson: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the minister whether he could give particular attention to the situation in northern Manitoba, because, having just returned from there I find that nothing has been done there so far.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION

PROVISION OF TELEVISION SETS TO MEMBERS
OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Secretary of State can answer today the question which I asked yesterday concerning the T.V. sets?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have ascertained that my predecessors who were responsible for the C.B.C.—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. My recollection is that the question asked yesterday by the hon. member, if it is the question I have in mind, had either been ruled out of order or I had suggested to the hon. member that he should place it on the order paper.

Mr. Prittie: Mr. Speaker, may I say with respect that you have allowed a number of questions on the same line, and the Secretary of State has made replies.

Mr. Speaker: I may have allowed other questions, but this particular one has not been allowed. I believe I suggested that it be placed on the order paper. It cannot be asked today.

Excise Tax Act and Old Age Security Act

EXCISE TAX AND OLD AGE
SECURITY ACT

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-268, to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Old Age Security Act.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, for a considerable period of time it was felt that possibly we should permit third reading of the bill, until we realized that the Minister of Finance himself indicated to the house that the measure before the house with regard to the Excise Tax Act did not provide that the moneys which would accrue from its application would in fact be placed in the old age security fund. Our position on this question has been very clear and firm throughout the debate, and I recognize that at this time I am not allowed to reiterate some of the points that have been made already in order to indicate to the house and to the country that our position has been the correct one.

When we were made aware initially—and as I recall we did so from answers to questions which I myself placed on the order paper—of the amount of money that was to be made available to the government for this purpose, I think we had the support of some of our friends to the left in the proposals we put forward from time to time, and we were certainly supported in the program that we laid before the house and before the country. When the measure was first introduced in the house we knew that sufficient money was already available and that the minister would not be required to present his budget or to apply the tax that is proposed in the bill before us. Indeed, many people throughout the country would have been quite satisfied with the proposal which was so ardently put forward by my party as well as by almost all members on this side of the house.

At one stage of the debate the Minister of National Health and Welfare indicated that I advocated that course for the sake of publicity. Nothing could be further from the truth, as is well known by everyone in this country. After what has transpired, namely the way in which this government has seen fit to spend money in other fields and the way they have established the division of the Department of National Health and Welfare to administer the payments for which the money is being collected, it is obvious that the Minister of Finance could have shown a greater degree of responsibility and efficiency in preparing and presenting this bill. It is very clear that this money was not needed at the time because it