

faint; this proves that the memory of these galant soldiers is still with us even after all those years.

This is why we should do more for stricken families. Canada can do more and I heartily support the suggestions just made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (M. Knowles) that nothing prevents the government from introducing, during this session, a new bill to raise the veterans' pensions or to amend the legislation so that our veterans and their families may live in increased security.

I think it is the duty of all hon. members to take into consideration more than once a year such questions which involve a great many people so that, progressively and as fast as possible, these pieces of legislation may be amended to the benefit of the veterans.

This is why I wanted to co-operate with the government and other hon. members participating in this debate. I will now conclude my remarks so that this law may be passed and that increased pensions be granted as fast as possible to our veterans.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I will only make a few comments about this legislation which is certainly a very important one. Like all hon. members, I am sure that no one will hesitate to support this bill designed to provide an increase in war veterans allowances.

Now do I have to add that we will never pay too much attention to this matter and that these increases are certainly not excessive when one considers the responsibilities faced by these veterans, the widows of those who died on the battlefield and their children who are suffering today some hardships because of the death of those soldiers.

I have heard some very interesting comments, made by several hon. members, in particular the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), which I suggest, deserve the attention of the minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald). These comments could certainly help the minister to have a better view of the situation and to bring about some improvements which are necessary at present.

I would like to deal with a specific point, that is the Canadian Legion. In my riding as everywhere else, some groups of war veterans still like to meet regularly. However, these veterans need the necessary quarters and certain amounts of money so that they might enjoy the facilities which they need in order to meet together and be motivated. In view of their past and of their responsibilities, I suggest that it is the responsibility of the government, of the minister in charge in particular to see to it that these groups of Legion members enjoy the facilities which will enable their to meet and arrange for some entertainment, and perhaps also to enjoy better days.

I should like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs to consider the possibility of granting aid to legion members. There are a number of them in my constituency, and, as the hon. member for Bellechasse was saying, I always have the privilege and the pleasure to be invited to meet them and take part in Remembrance Day reunions. It was in this way that I became aware of the importance of demanding certain advantages that are not available to

them today, so that they can afford to find places in which to meet.

These war veterans, with donations received from the outside and their own contributions make considerable efforts to provide for the upkeep of premises used for their meetings. I may add that those people have often told me about their difficulties, their intentions, their objectives, which are altogether justified.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to ask the Minister concerned to seriously consider the possibility of assisting veterans organizations in each and every Canadian riding. I make these very special representations on behalf of the legionnaires in my riding, since I know them well; I am also aware that they have long expected me to make such representations. Besides, they expect the Minister to say yes to the request I am making on their behalf. Considering all the comments which were made in connection with the bill now before us, which is very good, it does not mean that the government will be expected to sit back and do nothing for a certain number of years. On the contrary, I think that the changes taking place year after year require that the act be amended for the benefit of these people and I think that the government will be absolutely justified—and I think all the members do agree—in reconsidering this matter and in announcing in the near future the granting of special financial assistance to provide for the services which are required and for other benefits which are well deserved, since our veterans have fought to preserve our liberties.

I hope the minister will consider those few remarks which I make at the last minute, before the passing of the bill. And once again, I entirely approve this bill and hope that the recommendation I make concerning the benefits which could profit veterans will be greatly appreciated considering the extent to which they have deserved it well of our country.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

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OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE BASIC PENSION AND TO CLARIFY BASE YEAR IN ESCALATION FORMULA

On the order:

Report stage of Bill C-147, an act to amend the Old Age Security Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs—The Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In looking at the notices of motions pursuant to Standing Order 75(5), report stage of government bills, I would like to bring to Your Honour's attention the fact that the five motions which have been put down appear to be out of order. The argument that I would make, and I will not