

*Pension Act*

According to the minister's announcement, as to the children of pensioners the increase is to be from \$19 to \$20 for the first child, and for the other child there is no extra provision. That means only an increase of \$1 for the first child of the Canadian pensioner. We think that the government should have had the 33½ per cent increase include all the children of pensioners. These are the children of veterans raising families. I know that Canadians generally want to do everything possible to see that the families of veterans have as good an opportunity as this government and the people of Canada can provide. Therefore we in this group feel that the government should have carried the increase of 33½ per cent along so as to increase the amount of pension awarded for the children on that basis. We urge the minister and the government to give further consideration to this matter before the legislation comes before the house.

I now come to the question of dependent parents. The hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) and the hon. member for Fraser Valley had something to say on this matter. We believe that this particular group is entitled to special consideration. I have seen some pathetic cases in this group. It includes many a mother who has lost an only son and many a father who has lost an only son. These people have sacrificed not only the earning power of the son or the possibility of support by the son but have sacrificed a great deal of happiness for the sake of this country. Many of these people are living under difficult financial circumstances but, worse than that, they are living without the comfort which would have been brought to them by the children who they naturally expected would be a solace to them in their old age. We believe that some provision should be made for the dependent parents. We should like to hear the minister rise in his place in the house, when the bill comes before us, and say something to this effect: we intend to amend the bill so as to make some extra provision for this worthy group of Canadians who have sacrificed more than dollars can repay.

I now want to refer to those who are in receipt of compassionate pensions. We all know that a compassionate pension is paid not as of right but rather on purely compassionate grounds. The very fact that it is paid on compassionate grounds indicates there was need that demanded compassion. According to the statement of the minister there is not any stated increase for those persons receiving compassionate pensions.

[Mr. Herridge.]

We hope that the minister and the government will give consideration to this needy group.

**Mr. Mutch:** Will the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Herridge:** Yes.

**Mr. Mutch:** When the hon. member speaks of compassionate pensions, is he referring to pensions awarded under section 21 for meritorious service?

**Mr. Herridge:** Yes. This is a particular group that, as I said before, have received these pensions on the basis of compassion, and for them we urge further compassion. When the government is doing an excellent piece of work in introducing this 33½ per cent increase generally, with the exception of those classes which I have mentioned, we in this group urge that they complete this legislation and make a good job of it by providing 33½ per cent increase for the children of pensioners, by making some extra provision for dependent parents, and by making extra provision for those receiving compassionate pensions.

Previous speakers have suggested making this legislation retroactive. In fairness I think we must admit that there are certain administrative difficulties in connection with giving immediate effect to legislation of this type. As I understood the minister's statement, the first cheques at the new rate would be in the pensioners' hands in early February, 1952.

**Mr. Lapointe:** During the course of January; the January cheque.

**Mr. Herridge:** It will be paid in January. In British Columbia they usually arrive in February. I suggest that the minister and the government give consideration to making the pension payable so that the pensioner receives his first cheque in the first week of the new year. I think that would be a nice send-off for the new year, and will provide some time for the giving by the commission of effect to legislation passed by this house.

Before concluding my remarks, I must once again emphasize the fact that we in this group believe that the Canadian pension commission is doing an excellent job in administering the Canadian Pension Act. We all think they have done splendid work throughout the years. We hope that the government and the minister will make their task easier and will make this legislation completely satisfactory by including the groups to which I have made reference. I trust that, before this legislation is finally adopted by this house, the government will add these