

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

he was getting more money for that job than he was earning at the university. He did admit, however, that the job was very restful mentally.

We noted a few months ago that all the universities had increased the fees to incoming students. I am confident that if in the 1920's, and the decade preceding that, university fees had been what they are today there are a great many of us who would never have seen the inside of a university. Today the fees are such that it is making it extremely difficult for those who come from working class homes to go through the universities. This grant, if it could be used to reduce those fees or to provide bursaries for students to assist them, will have rendered a great service to Canadian education and to the building of Canadian citizens.

**Mr. McLure:** I want to ask the Prime Minister one question. This vote provides grants to universities and equivalent institutions of higher learning. Would they be institutions that were not in the category of granting degrees? Does it take in both of those?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** No, I understand it is institutions authorized by the provincial authorities to grant degrees or institutions affiliated with them and which get their degrees through their affiliations.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE  
Welfare branch—

734. Old age security—to conduct the necessary registration for universal old age pensions and to organize and administer the payment of such pensions, \$508,500.

**Mr. Knowles:** I want to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare if he can make a brief statement as to the plans the minister and the department have in mind with respect to the registration for the universal pension? Can the minister tell us when an announcement will be made as to where people can get their forms, where to apply and so on?

**Mr. Martin:** I am trying to catch a plane in eight minutes, and that is the reason that I have risen.

I should like to say in answer to my hon. friend that the forms for application are practically completed. We hope to have them in the hands of our regional family allowance offices not later than the end of July. This next week, over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, I am taking advantage of the opportunity to outline some of the procedures.

We have made arrangements with the provincial authorities to assist us in this respect. Some of the money now being voted is to

[Mr. Noseworthy.]

provide for temporary personnel who will be allocated to our ten offices; and we will also use the permanent staff of the family allowance offices for the purpose of supplementing the work that will be done by those who are engaged in the process of registration that will go on between now and the end of the year.

Ample opportunity will be taken in the press, over the radio and through other appropriate media to inform the public as to the steps being taken. Those who are now in receipt of the old age pension do not need to register and we urge that they do not register, inasmuch as our task will be an extremely difficult one, and we do not want it to be unnecessarily complicated. But my hon. friend may be sure that every step is being taken so that there will be no delay.

**Mr. Knowles:** The minister said that the necessary forms would be out in the regional offices by the end of July. May we take it that the advertising in the newspapers and the announcements over the radio will appear and be made at about that time?

**Mr. Martin:** That is the intention.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There is one question I should like to ask the minister, and it is in connection with proof of age. There are numbers of cases that arise from time to time where it is impossible to prove age by reason of the fact that the people in question came from continental Europe where there is not available today any registration system that is helpful, or where the registration systems have been destroyed; and when those people came to Canada, the situation was that they had no registration.

**Mr. Martin:** The interprovincial old age pensions board will be meeting on July 16. We expect that that question—which, of course, is one which has also to be arranged with regard to the Old Age Assistance Act—will be reviewed with them at that time, and the principles that will apply to proof of age with regard to that measure will presumably apply to universal pensions when they come into effect.

**Mr. Knowles:** The minister said that the forms in connection with the universal pension were already prepared. I assumed that they would deal with the question of age.

**Mr. Martin:** No. They do not deal with the question of proof. They deal with assertion of age. The matter of proof is a matter of regulation.

Item agreed to.