

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

nature referred to by the hon. member. These are being acknowledged and, where the payor can be identified, the payment is being returned. Where the payor cannot be identified, the money is, as the minister said, being deposited to the credit of the Receiver General.

The government has fully informed the people of Canada of the cost of maintaining all programs as they existed when this government assumed office following the last general election. One of the possibilities was to continue the programs unchanged at increasing costs, which would lead in time to a level of taxation unacceptable to Canadians and, indeed, detrimental to the Canadian economy. Rather than accept that, the government has reviewed and proposes changes to a number of programs, including the federal old age pension, with a view, to providing both improved programs and an acceptable level of taxation.

In dealing with the old age pension, the government has rejected the option to continue to pay all pensioners regardless of need an amount inadequate for those actually in need. Instead it has elected to limit the amount paid regardless of need and to effect a meaningful increase for those pensioners who actually require more assistance. In raising this question the hon. member deals with that

portion of the federal old age pension payable regardless of need, the old age security payment. He ignores the guaranteed income supplement, the amount of which depends on need.

There are two very substantial improvements proposed for the GIS. Firstly, the limits of eligibility will be raised so that many more of Canada's senior citizens will be helped by the GIS. Previously, single pensioners with annual income exceeding \$768 and married pensioners with income exceeding \$1,536 were not eligible. These limits will be raised to \$1,320 and \$2,304 respectively.

Secondly, with implementation of increases in the guaranteed income supplement, federal old age pension payments will increase by as much as \$23.59 per month, from \$111.41 to \$135.00 for a single pensioner and by as much \$32.18 per month, from \$222.52 to \$255.00, for married pensioners. In annual terms, this represents an increase from \$1,336.92 to \$1,620.00 for a single pensioner and from \$2,673.84 to \$3,060.00 for a couple. It is expected that in the first year the substantial improvement in the federal old age pension will amount to \$194 million in total.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.