

chairman to the fact that there is no possible way in which we can discuss old age pensions except on this item. If the chairman would stop making speeches we would get along much faster.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not for my own humble person, but as long as I occupy the Chair I cannot allow an hon. member to tell the chairman to stop making speeches when he explains a ruling. I am now telling the hon. gentleman that the house has referred to the committee of supply certain expenditures to be incurred by the crown and to be voted by this committee. The statutory provisions of an act of parliament such as that dealing with old age pensions, the adequacy of such pensions, are not before the committee of supply.

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to appeal your ruling. I have a duty to perform to the old people of this country, and if I cannot discuss their needs here because of your ruling, then at the proper time I am going to appeal from your ruling. I am going to discuss this matter; I do not care if we stay here until next October.

The CHAIRMAN: The ruling is not debatable, but—

Mr. ILSLEY: I do not want to say anything about your decision, Mr. Chairman, but perhaps by unanimous consent this could be discussed.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no objection. If the hon. gentleman has unanimous consent.

Mr. COLDWELL: Just a minute, before that precedent is set. We are not asking for unanimous consent to do something that is within the right of a private member to do.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, then—

Mr. COLDWELL: May I speak without interruption?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may speak only to the point of order.

Mr. COLDWELL: I am speaking to the point of order. The Chairman has disputed the right of an hon. member to discuss old age pensions on the item "old age pensions" in the estimates. The Chair says this should be done on the appropriate occasion. I point out that on February 16 the hon. member for Vancouver East filed with the Clerk of the House, and it so appears to-day in *Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day*, at page 10, a motion which reads thus:

Whereas it is becoming increasingly difficult for persons in the age group of 60 to 70 years

to hold employment, and next to impossible for such persons to regain employment once they have lost it;

And whereas the present amount of the old age pension is much below what is necessary for a decent standard of living;

And whereas the increase in the cost of living since the outbreak of war has further depressed the standard of living of old age pensioners,

Therefore be it resolved,—That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give immediate consideration to the lowering of the present pensionable age and the increasing of the amount of pension.

So that the hon. gentleman tried to do the appropriate thing in connection with this matter. Since this is an estimate which deals with old age pensions, I contend that the hon. member has the right to discuss it under this item.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): The hon. member is entirely out of order in referring to an order on the order paper which has not been reached. But I think he is quite in order in his contention that the old age pensions administration can be discussed, not under the statutory vote, but under the vote for administration.

Mr. COLDWELL: I was pointing out that the hon. member has taken every step possible to ensure discussion of this matter.

Mr. ILSLEY: As my colleague has pointed out, an item on the order paper cannot be discussed. But as the question seems to be whether other means may be taken or other steps adopted to bring the matter before the committee, and as other steps have been sought to be taken, I suggest that the hon. gentleman be permitted to discuss this matter under this item.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. gentleman has unanimous consent.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I differentiate between the two items of the vote, the portion dealing with administration and the statutory portion. I agree that it is the statutory portion we are discussing, but under "administration" I maintain that anything in regard to old age pensions can be discussed in committee of the whole.

Mr. NEILL: I hope the hon. member for Vancouver East does not get the unanimous consent of the committee, and I hope he has the courage to put it to a vote. This matter of the government getting out of its obligations and responsibilities, and depriving us of our rights by asking for unanimous consent, is played out. It is a device which has been resorted to time and again this session. We