

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

This is the group, of course, that must occupy the attention of the government and of parliament itself. Of course, these people will be eligible for the flat rate pension of \$75 per month. This is, clearly, not enough, will not be enough for them to live adequately and decently.

The question that must occupy the government is, which of several alternatives offers the most reasonable way of continued support for the older citizens of Canada. My hon. friend has come down squarely in favour of a flat rate increase of \$25 per month. This has its attractions, but it has its disadvantages because it will help people who do not need this amount of money and it will not be enough for others. One of the factors to be

considered is that it is a very costly expenditure in the field of income maintenance. At the moment, we are spending about a billion dollars per year on old age security. If we raised the pension to \$100, then by 1970 the annual cost would be \$2.1 billion.

There are competing demands on the resources of Canada in the field of medicare and in the field of pensions. These competing requirements must be considered. We are about to consider in the House of Commons the Canada assistance plan.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** I regret to interrupt the hon. minister, but the time allotted to him has expired.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.27 p.m.

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