

be established by the provinces and not be imposed on them, as if they were only wards of the central government.

If we consider the provisions of the legislation—and several members raised the matter tonight—various questions may be raised to which the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) has not yet replied. We hope that when he makes a statement, he will dispel our anxieties on various matters, as he himself and his government have decided to go ahead in the field of medical care.

Do we have enough doctors? Do we have, in Canada, the necessary medical schools? Do we have enough hospitals, laboratories and staff to overcome the effects which such a legislation would create in the field of health and in the country?

Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

[English]

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to whoever is acting house leader tonight in regard to the business of the house tomorrow. May I offer the suggestion that in order to have a quiet day in the house maybe we should take up a non-controversial subject such as the estimates of the Department of National Defence.

**Mr. Knowles:** That is a spurious suggestion.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Splendid.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, my instruction from the house leader is to indicate the continuation tomorrow of the present subject matter, and if we finish that to continue with Item No. 48, house in committee of the whole on Bill C-218, to be followed by the second reading of Bill C-220, respecting the Immigration Appeal Board.

• (10:00 p.m.)

#### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

#### OLD AGE SECURITY—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION THIS SESSION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 5, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 8348, I put to the Prime Minister a question that was

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supplementary to one that had been asked by another member, in which I used these words:

In view of the concern being expressed in the country, may I ask the Prime Minister whether consideration is being given to providing for an old age pension increase without imposing any test or limitation?

The Prime Minister replied as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should wait until the resolution is introduced; his understandable curiosity will be satisfied at that time.

My reply was:

I think I shall have to satisfy my curiosity at ten o'clock.

I have had to wait not only from the afternoon until evening but some eight days to get my question before the house during one of these late shows. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, several other members have asked questions about the proposal to supplement the old age pension by \$30 a month. Questions have been asked as to the effective date and various other details. Every time these questions have been asked the reply has been that members should wait until the legislation comes before us when the details will be disclosed. Well, the main outline of the government's proposal was given to us by the Minister of National Health and Welfare on July 14 of this year. I suggest, therefore, that it is a bit of a cat-and-mouse game to suggest that we wait for the details if those details are simply going to be along the lines announced on July 14.

What we are asking for, and the government knows it, is a reconsideration of some of the fundamental points in the program announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. My question to the Prime Minister was one of those questions. Is consideration being given to providing for this increase without imposing any test or limitation? I hope the minister tonight will not give us one of his usual speeches about the number of times the Liberals have increased the old age pension, and all that kind of thing. I hope he will address himself to the question, and I make it as simple and as direct as I can. Do I hear the hon. member for Parkdale making a reference to 1919?

**Mr. Douglas:** His conscience is bothering him.

**Mr. Haidasz:** I was not here in 1919.

**Mr. Knowles:** I suggest that if the hon. member's conscience is bothering him he might see a psychiatrist, if he can get one under medicare.