

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. MacLean:** Will the minister be in a position soon to make a further statement on this matter and also on the request which has reached him from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other organizations regarding a subsidy on breeding hogs?

**Mr. Olson:** In respect of the first part of the question I hope so. I will look into the second question.

HOG DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS—SUGGESTED PRESS  
RELEASE TO RESOLVE CONFUSION

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it the minister's intention to issue a press release to help relieve the confusion that seems to exist among the hog producers of Canada when they apply for their deficiency payments? The confusion arises out of the word "other" in the program.

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, these forms obviously were printed before the announcement was made. As a matter of fact, as long ago as September I indicated there was a high likelihood of a deficiency payment being made and we did make up the forms and distribute them across the country. At that time we did not know on what level it would be paid and therefore all categories, including a category for "other", were included.

**Mr. Hales:** Mr. Speaker, when the minister is giving this information perhaps he might explain why the word "process" is spelled "precess".

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PENSIONS

OLD AGE SECURITY—INQUIRY AS TO MEASURE TO  
INCREASE BASIC AMOUNT

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Even though there is no mention in the Throne Speech of the subject of old age pensions may I ask the minister a question based on the statement he made several times during the last session that parliament could at any time increase the basic amount of the pension under the Old Age Security Act. Does the government intend to bring in such a measure during the course of this session?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, there is no intention in this regard, but I would remind the hon. member that the last time we dealt with this matter, about a year ago, we brought in the second largest increase in Canadian history.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Forty-two cents.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Orders of the day.

[Mr. Olson.]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Wednesday, February 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ross Whicher for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity and privilege to take part in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. First, of course, I should like to express my deepest appreciation for the contributions made by the mover and the seconder of the address in reply. I am particularly interested in the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) took the time to give some information regarding the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher). I note he indicated to the House that this member had sat in the provincial house from 1955, I believe, until 1967 and was then elected to the House of Commons in 1968.

When I listened to the hon. member's speech and then reread it I could readily understand why he was in the opposition in the Ontario Legislature for such a lengthy period of time. There are two particular statements I should like to bring back to haunt the hon. member. First of all, as recorded at page 9 of *Hansard*, he said: Without any doubt I can say here this afternoon that the senior citizens of Canada have the benefit of the just society promised by our government.

Mr. Speaker, that is one of the more irresponsible statements I have heard since I have been here. I do not know where the hon. member lives or why he has not received the same type of mail I have received from these poor, frustrated Canadians, frustrated because of the attitude of this government in terms of lack of senior citizen housing, in terms of the high cost of living and in terms of removing the escalation clause in respect of the minimum old age security payment. These people constantly write to me and I am sure to all other hon. members. So far as I am concerned they do not believe they are living in a just society and they are not likely to do so in the very near future unless there is a change of government.

I should like to bring up another matter.

**Mr. McBride:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Alexander:** There is the man of the cloth. I read the editorial about him. I will let my remarks stand. I support the editorial fully. It appears that the hon. member will not be back with us for the glory and edification of the people of Canada after the next election.

Let me quote another statement made by the hon. member for Bruce. As recorded at page 13 of *Hansard*, he said:

When the chips are down, the people of Canada will appreciate the good life that this government is allowing them to live.

I underline the word "allowing". Is that a responsible statement? I wonder whether in fact this is the fact. Is "Trudeaucracy" allowing the people of Canada to live? Let me set the hon. member straight because if they are living in extremely adverse conditions. It is no wonder the Prime Minister has indicated he will not go to the people on his past record but rather intends to