

Supply—Health and Welfare

As I previously mentioned in this house on June 24, 1961 it is desirable that we give further consideration to those of our citizens reaching the retiring age of 65 years. These folk in many cases have not had the opportunity of providing for their future through superannuation or pension plans. Many of these people are on the unemployment list or were unable to have retirement postponed, and therefore are in financial difficulty at an age when they should be able to have some security other than just owning their own homes and a few belongings. It is an acknowledged fact that these citizens have played a prominent part in developing the economy of our country. I am sure that we, as hon. members of the house, along with the Department of National Health and Welfare, can devise some system to look after their financial needs at the retiring age.

Owing to improvements in medical care and otherwise, we have a greater population of people in the age group 70 or over, as well as those in the 65 to 70 year age group. These circumstances make our obligations much greater. Many fine improvements have been made in the Old Age Pensions Act. The previous government made the most beneficial improvement when they lowered the residence requirement from 20 to 10 years in regard to old age pensions. Another splendid move was that recipients are now permitted to take their pensions with them when leaving Canada on a permanent basis. I am sure that our senior citizens living outside of Canada or contemplating doing so for various reasons, are appreciative of such legislation.

My second thought concerns the fine youth of our country, but before expressing my observations on fitness and amateur sports, may I suggest that we who are parents should take a good look at our daily obligations with regard to assistance and guidance extended to them in their responsibilities as future citizens of Canada. Like all proud parents, we expect a lot of our younger folk, and we must do so if our young country is to fulfil its ambitions. However, we must not forget that they will only be able to shoulder their responsibilities in a manner consistent with the teachings and with the example which they will have received from us. To my mind, however, education in such a way is not related only to the three R's. It covers a much wider field. For one thing, good citizenship is required of all the individuals making up a nation, if that nation is to be strong and healthy. I am sure hon. members will agree with me that such education means developing in our children a strong sense of responsibility as individuals. But responsibility means work, and unfortunately too many of us have the natural tendency to leave it to

the other fellow to do the job. The pass-the-buck or let-George-do-it policy has never been known to lead to great achievements. So, as I said before, let us teach by setting a good example first, and then by giving young people plenty of opportunities to assume responsibilities. They will make mistakes, as we have done, but they will learn, and in the process they will realize that they too have an important role to play in the aspirations of our nation.

With regard to fitness and amateur sports, I was interested in the remarks made by the Royal Canadian Legion's "Coaching Review" of June 1963, which had this to say:

A fresh mind is quickening the pulse of Canadian amateur sport these days, giving it new initiative, leading, eventually to its expansion and development in the light of current needs and standards.

As part of that initiative the Royal Canadian Legion has launched its sports training program, with particular emphasis on improving the coaching and performance of track and field athletics. For some years the Royal Canadian Legion of Waterloo, Ontario has made a great success of promoting the eastern Canada track and field events, along with events in other places across Canada, and some time ago I had the great pleasure of taking part in the opening of the Kitchener public schools track and field event where 6,000 children were in attendance and over 1,000 competitors took part. Much credit is due to this committee for its outstanding success. Such events mean healthier boys and girls. Members of the Legion, like other sports-minded citizens, believe that track and field, and indeed, all sports, should be enjoyed at the bottom level as well as the top level.

For years the Royal Canadian Legion has made tremendous contributions to the welfare of our youth in various ways, and recently acquired one of the world's greatest coaches, Mr. Geoffrey Dyson of England, to carry out their sports training program. I had the pleasure, last year, of attending this program in Guelph, Ontario, and recently I attended the clinic sponsored by the Kitchener recreational council at which time this gentleman was in charge and later was guest speaker at the luncheon. To hear this man and to see him in action is a real treat, and inspired over 100 men attending this event. No doubt, such action by the Legion in securing the services of such a distinguished gentleman can be attributed in no small way to the \$5 million fitness and amateur sports program brought forward by the previous government and passed by parliament and the other place. I sincerely believe that the national advisory council, made up of outstanding sportsmen and representatives of every province, along