

*The Address—Mr. Knowles*

think it has been published. You spend a million and a quarter dollars, as I understand it, on this aspect of safety. I would like to know what the profit is.

Donner: The one aspect we are talking about is safety.

Kennedy: What was the profit of General Motors last year?

Donner: I will have to ask one of my associates.

Kennedy: Could you, please?

Roche: \$1,700,000,000.

We can also say that nothing has been done because what I refer to as the safety establishments, the automobile associations and highway safety councils, have not lived up to their responsibilities as they should. They have pressed for better roads. They have exhorted us, as automobile owners, and called us nuts behind the wheel. They talk about the proper maintenance and operation of cars, but nothing about the building of safer cars. None of them like to speak about building safer automobiles. Why is this, Mr. Speaker? It is because these associations, by and large, receive a large portion of their annual budgets from the automobile industry and are controlled by the automobile industry. I maintain that the same situation holds true, incredible as it may seem, with regard to the presidential council on highway safety in the United States of America.

We must face our responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, in this country. I should like to thank all members of parliament who sponsored my brief last year. I should like to thank Alex Brown and Rheal Casavant, the co-authors of the brief with me. I should like to thank the members of the government and officials of the government who have been so co-operative. I should like to congratulate so many of those inadequately staffed and inadequately financed private research institutes in the United States that are doing something in this regard.

I should like to thank many members of the press, radio and television who have taken a serious view of this situation, and who have helped to get public opinion off the ground. Let us in this session of parliament do more than get public opinion off the ground, Mr. Speaker. Let us act. Let us not give up our responsibilities. At the dawn of the industrial revolution in the last century, factory owners exploited human misery. Charles Dickens told us about children cleaning chimneys pots, and he told us of poor labour conditions in the old world textile mills. How will future historians speak of a generation and a society that permitted the needless slaughter of our citizens on the highway of

the nation, because scientifically proven safety features known to the automobile industry were not included as standard equipment in our cars. The government, the automobile industry, and the public must co-operate, sir, and act in this regard. The hour is late.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, at the end of the speech which the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) made yesterday he said that we of this parliament would be judged by our deeds and not by our words. His last sentence was this:

I hope that on this basis the judgment will be a favourable one for the twenty seventh parliament.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we all share that sentiment, and I hope that we will do something about it. Indeed, I hope and trust that this twenty seventh parliament will produce many good deeds. But I make the assertion that no matter how many good deeds are performed, the judgment on this parliament will not be favourable unless this parliament does something to improve the lot of our senior citizens who have retired, and those who will be retiring in the next few years. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we are pleased that there is now before this house a proposition concerning old age security pensions, moved in part by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and in part by the leader of the New Democratic party.

• (5:00 p.m.)

In 45 minutes or so a vote will be taken on our subamendment which asks for the immediate lowering of the eligible age under the Old Age Security Act to the age of 65. On Tuesday there will be a vote on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) calling for the immediate increase of the amount of the pension from \$75 to \$100 a month. My leader made clear last night, Mr. Speaker, that we shall be voting for both of these propositions, and it is our hope that they will commend themselves to members on all sides of the house and that both of these amendments will carry and will therefore be added to the address to be delivered to His Excellency the Governor General.

The leader of this party last evening dealt, effectively I thought, with the arguments which are raised against an increase in the old age security pension, arguments based on the problem of finance. In fact he dealt with that matter so well that at one point the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) thought that if he went much further we would be making a profit for the treasury of Canada by raising