

attempted to reach in behind the bill now before the House to effect an amendment to the enabling legislation.

On motion of Mr. Lalonde, seconded by Mr. Lang, the said bill was concurred in at the report stage.

Mr. Lalonde, seconded by Mr. Lang, moved,—That the said bill be now read a third time and do pass.

And debate arising thereon;

Mr. Matte, seconded by Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix), proposed to move,—That Bill C-147, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs to consider the lowering of the age for the Old Age Pension from 65 to 60 and the automatic acceptance of the spouse for a pension as soon as one of the couple reaches age 60.

Mr. Acting Speaker, using citation 418 Beauchesne's 4th edition and Standing Order 61 as his authority, ruled the said proposed amendment out of order on the grounds that it was irrelevant to the provision of the bill now before the House and that it proposed a charge on the consolidated revenue fund not contemplated in the recommendation accompanying the said bill.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Lalonde, seconded by Mr. Lang,—That Bill C-147, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, be now read a third time and do pass.

And debate continuing;

Mr. Rondeau, seconded by Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse), proposed to move,—That Bill C-147, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs to give further consideration to the qualifications for benefits as provided under the said Act.

And debate arising thereon;

RULING BY MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Earlier this evening the honourable Member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) presented an amendment, and I will now make my ruling upon it. I wish to thank the honourable Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) and the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Reid) for their assistance to the Chair on the question that has given me considerable difficulty.

The bill before us contains a simple provision. It deals with the basic amount of pension under the provisions of the Old Age Security Act. It does seem to me that little in the bill goes beyond that point. I ask myself: what would the amendment do? I suggest that it proposes that a committee of the House consider the qualifications for a pension payable under the Old Age Security Act. The motion does not say that the amount of the pension should

be altered. But the honourable Member for Shefford in his amendment does propose the study of the conditions by which a person becomes eligible for the pension. It does seem to me that he is endeavouring to reach in behind the bill now before us for the purpose of amending the enabling legislation. Otherwise, for what purpose would the committee consider the formula? In doing so, his proposal is not really relevant to the provision in the bill before us, and it is the fundamental rule that the amendment must be relevant to the question.

I can understand his zeal in endeavouring to make a change in an important measure. However, as a servant of the House I can only deal with any question in accordance with what I believe to be the strictures laid down for the guidance of the Chair.

May I draw the attention of honourable Members to part of citation 418 in Beauchesne's fourth edition. I read the said second sentence which is as follows: "All amendments which may be moved on a second reading of a bill may be moved on the third reading with the restriction that they cannot deal with any matter which is not contained in the bill."

I re-emphasize that in my opinion the amendment is not relevant, but it is close to the line, and that has given me difficulty in deciding. With regret, I cannot put the amendment to the House.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Lalonde, seconded by Mr. Lang,—That Bill C-147, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, be now read a third time and do pass.

And debate continuing;

Changes in Committee Membership

Notice having been filed with the Clerk of the House pursuant to Standing Order 65(4)(b), membership of Committees was amended as follows:

Messrs. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) and Jelinek for Mrs. MacInnis and Mr. Reynolds on the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

Messrs. Balfour, Symes, Loiselle, Guay (Lévis), Demers and Stevens for Messrs. Baker, Grier, Clermont, Smith (Saint-Jean), Guay (Lévis) and O'Sullivan on the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Harding for Mr. Broadbent on the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. Higson for Mr. Jelinek on the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

Mr. O'Sullivan for Mr. Stevens on the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Haliburton for Mr. Fraser on the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.