

The Address—Mr. Racine

constructed at North Bay and are being constructed at La Macaza. These facilities will be available if and when nuclear warheads are obtained.

Mr. Hellyer: Can the minister say when that will be?

Mr. Sevigny: No comment.

HOUSING

REPORTED RENT INCREASES TO SENIOR CITIZENS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he has been advised that already many landlords across Canada are increasing rents charged to senior citizens by the amount of the increase in pension recently passed by the House of Commons. Has the Prime Minister any comment, and is there any action the government can take to stop this practice?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking a question about rents, which are a subject of provincial jurisdiction and not the responsibility of any minister of the crown in this government. If there is a desire to deal with the issue I certainly would not stand in the way, but it is not a proper subject for a question to this government.

Mr. Winch: I thought that a statement by the Prime Minister might have a salutary effect in the interests of the senior citizens of this country.

POSTAL SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO RESTORATION OF TWICE DAILY MAIL DELIVERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Does the name of our distinguished visitor, Mr. Day, remind our Postmaster General of a promise he made when he was in the opposition in respect of twice a day mail delivery?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from the United States has left the gallery that question would not seem to have very much point at the moment. I might mention, however, that in his country as well twice a day mail delivery has been abolished for some time.

PUBLICATIONS

DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I should like to ask a question of the Postmaster General. In view of the interest and concern

in both the United States and Canada with regard to the proposed legislation on publications, is he having discussions with his United States counterpart on the situation as it affects *Reader's Digest* and *Time* magazine in Canada?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): There is nothing whatever in that connection which immediately affects our discussions. This is a problem or a situation quite apart from the post office.

SPEECH FROM THRONECONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS
IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Monday, February 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Rodrigue Bourdages for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

(Translation):

Mr. Jean-Paul Racine (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, when the house adjourned last night, I was talking about the lack of action on the part of the government in dealing with unemployment, as well as about the slump in which agriculture finds itself.

For the voters as well as for the member at home during the parliamentary recess, there were few administrative statements from parliament, the headlines being given rather to the former senator from Jean Talon hospital, to the letter, signed or not, from the Secretary of State, to the trip to Quebec, and to the appointment of Mr. Maurice Richard to the Senate.

Mr. Maurice Richard undoubtedly was one of our great French Canadian athletes, and it would be unfortunate to see his name linked with the administrative failure of the present government.

The speech from the throne did not tell us much that was news. It contains, however, a popular measure that we readily approve, that is the one about the increase in the old age pensions.

There again, it is fortunate that the Conservatives came after a Liberal government, because they did not initiate any social measure; and the increase in the old age pensions proves that they now approve that Liberal measure that was called for at the time the law was enacted.

The family allowances date back to 1944 and the best way of knowing if an increase is justified is to consider the upward trend in the cost of living since they were adopted.

Rent stood at 91.4 per cent in 1945 and had reached 132.7 per cent in 1960; the cost of clothing, which stood at 66.9 per cent in 1945, had increased to 110.9 per cent in