

Supply—Health and Welfare

of fighting and education as well as going through elections demanding that the government do something about it.

As a matter of fact, this 15 years of progress has been wiped out completely by the fiscal policy of the Liberal government that has been in power. The \$40 per month which a senior citizen gets today buys very little more than the \$16 did in the years 1939 to 1940. It is because of that situation that people are demanding an increase in this pension to our senior citizens, so it will give these people a more proper means of security and get rid of some of the worries of living today. The cost of living in Canada has more than doubled since 1940, and our senior citizens are in a difficult situation. Some provinces have increased the special grant—

Mr. Martin: Could we not deal with this under the old age security item? There is a special item for old age security, and if we take each individual item in a general debate we will never get through. A general debate is permitted and the subject is a legitimate one, but I do suggest we could make more progress without precluding any debate if my hon. friend made his argument on the specific item. He could raise the matter under the old age security item or the old age assistance item. He certainly has the opportunity.

Mr. Castleden: That would be under item 280, old age security payments?

Mr. Martin: That is the \$40 payment my hon. friend wants increased. He could make his argument there.

Mr. Castleden: If the minister prefers that we do it that way.

Mr. Martin: I would be grateful to my hon. friend.

Mr. Castleden: I find it difficult to refuse him under the circumstances, and the invitation will be accepted.

Mr. Winch: I appreciate the attitude taken by the minister when he indicates that he prefers to have the discussion under a particular item. However, there is one phase of health which I do not think would come under any item except this one.

Mr. Martin: No. It could be discussed under the national health program, the general health grants or research grants. I shall remind the hon. member when we reach the proper item. I know the matter he wishes to discuss.

Mr. Winch: I would remind the minister that I asked him where I should discuss the

[Mr. Castleden.]

matter I have in mind, and he said it should be done when the first item was called.

Mr. Martin: No, I think not. The hon. member suggested that the discussion should take place on the first item, and I suggested that it might better take place under item 265, the national health grants program.

Mr. Winch: The minister has not even heard what I am about to say. How can he say that?

Mr. Martin: The hon. member has discussed with me what he wishes to say, and it is an important subject. I assure him I am anxious that he be given every opportunity to speak. However, under that particular vote various grants are made, one of which is for research. I know what the hon. member has in mind, and it could be undertaken only under the moneys provided for research. That would be the proper place to discuss it, and I shall be anxious to hear him when we reach that point.

Mr. Winch: On national health research in Canada?

Mr. Martin: Yes.

Mr. Winch: Do I understand that on the vote for research and administration I can discuss the matter I have in mind?

Mr. Martin: That is right.

Mr. Winch: Will all witnesses please hold up their hands. I shall discuss it then.

Mr. Trainor: I wish to make a few observations arising out of the remarks of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart, who went to some considerable lengths—

Mr. Martin: I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member, but I suggest that if he is going to discuss health insurance it might better come under the health insurance studies item. In view of the stand I have taken with two other hon. members I believe I should do the same where he is concerned.

Mr. Trainor: I might point out to the minister that I did not intend to discuss health insurance in detail, but rather to comment on remarks made by previous speakers.

Mr. Martin: I suggest it might be done more properly under item 264.

Mr. Trainor: If the minister prefers to have it that way, I have no objection.

Mr. Winch: I am sorry, but I must say that while I do not question the word of the minister, I question the wording of the item. Under the discussion of item 245 the minister draws my attention to item 265 at page 46 of the estimates. Where does he find research there?