

Mr. Alexander: Please do not lump us with that gang over there.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If the Liberals had been returned with a clear majority, the basic old age security pension would have increased in April by the amount automatically provided, that is, to \$86.61, and that is all.

Mr. Alexander: I agree with the hon. member.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is perfectly clear that just as J. S. Woodsworth, and those who supported him back in 1926, won for us the first old age pension, so it is clear because there are 31 New Democrats in the House today and because the Liberal party in government is in a minority position, there has been given this increase of \$13.39 more than would have been given if the Liberals had been returned with a majority.

If this bill is passed, and I trust it will be passed quickly, and if it is accepted by the other place, which, by the way, threw out the first old age pension bill back in 1925, the law respecting old age pensions will be changed, effective April 1. That means that the April cheques, which our pensioners will not get until the end of April, will be increased by the amount provided for in this bill. As I understand it, every one of the 1,800,000 pensioners in Canada, those on the old age security pension only, those on old age security plus part of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and those on old age security plus the full Guaranteed Income Supplement, will get \$13.39 more than they would have got in April of this year. That, Mr. Speaker, is happening in Canada in 1973 because, on October 30, 1972, the people of Canada elected a minority government and elected 31 New Democrats to this House to speak for the old people of this country.

Mr. Alexander: What a line that is. The Liberals will not buy that.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Just as we are proud of what the late J. S. Woodsworth did in 1926, so we are proud of what we are doing today for 1,800,000 pensioners in this country.

Mr. Alexander: The hon. member has to say that. He is trying to justify the marriage between his party and the Liberals.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I see that you are looking at the clock, and that it is five o'clock. I shall continue with these remarks at eight o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Having noticed that it is five o'clock, it is my duty at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions

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to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Manpower—Refusal of unemployment insurance benefits to persons taking courses; the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams)—Labour Relations—Elevator constructors' strike—Federal government action to achieve settlement; the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose)—Canadian National Railways—Alleged slowdown by Vancouver yard crews—Reason for lower productivity.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business.

Mr. MacLean: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I believe there is an understanding, as was mentioned by the government House leader early today, that private members' hour on this occasion will, by special arrangement, be devoted to consideration of Notice of Motion No. 76 standing in the name of the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May I ask if this is agreed to by all hon. members?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION AND SECURITY

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, note should be taken of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on European Co-operation and Security held in Helsinki, Finland, from January 26-31, 1973.

He said: Mr. Speaker, may I first thank the House for the arrangements which have been made enabling us to debate this matter this afternoon. I think this is a "first". The Canadian branch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of which I have the honour to be the chairman this year, has initiated the formula for bringing to the attention of the House of Commons and of the Senate some of the deliberations that are held at the various meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I do not say this in any wish to be boastful. I think the precedent is interesting and the record should note that.

• (1700)

I also want to say that the motion could translate the work of the various parliamentary associations, for example, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the NATO Association, the United States-Canada Interparliamentary Group, the Francophone group and others, into the records of this parliament. I think that is an important first step.

I am very grateful to the House leaders of the government and other parties for agreeing that this is a proce-