

*Old Age Security Act*

Mr. Speaker, I had circulars returned to my office by mistake and those circulars suggest even in Liberal circles that the friends of the Liberals want the old age pension at 60, that is at the age when old age begins and not at the age when old age is over by three quarters.

Mr. Speaker, those are the reasons why we find this bill to be more or less important. Some seem to want to use blackmail by saying that the Social Credit wants to delay the passage of the bill. It is clear that we are in favour of this bill to increase pensions by \$13 a month, which is not even half the increase in the cost of living in the last ten years.

I have here an editorial of the *Quebec Action* of December 22, 1964 which looks at the security of nations. One can read that Western countries waste or spend—it is all the same to me—\$140 billion on weapons and \$4 billion on the hungry.

It is also mentioned in that editorial that old people are neglected because of the considerable amounts of money spent on military expenditures in all countries.

In Canada, Mr. Speaker, it would be preferable to consider human needs rather than the needs of our Canadian Forces. An amount of \$2,134 million was spent in 1964-65 on national defence; we could have used only a few millions on national defence to ensure better security for our older people in Canada.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I hope the problem of old age pensions can be brought back before the Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs because I think that no scientific book was consulted to define when old age starts and it is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that I will be proposing a motion in a few moments.

There should be an emergency meeting of the Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs with an order to report to the House within 48 hours and recommending that there be included in Bill C-147 a clause concerning the granting of old age pensions to those aged 60, effective April 1, 1973. In this connection, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

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 to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs for further study of the eligibility requirements under the said Act.

I apologize for not having an English version of my motion, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we are not provided the same services as the hon. ministers to have our amendments translated on time.

• (2130)

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I have been provided with a copy of the motion.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I might tell the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) that my first suspicion is that the amendment he has presented is out of order for several

[Mr. Rondeau.]

reasons. Of course, I shall hear the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) on his point of order. The proposed amendment seems to offend the principle of the bill which has been adopted on second reading. It also seems to go beyond the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor General. The argument I should like to hear is whether those two objections can be overcome.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, you have just read the motion of the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) in French, and I must congratulate you most sincerely on the impeccable way in which you express yourself in French.

Mr. Speaker, to my mind that amendment is extremely serious for, after having done considerable research in Sir Erskine May's 18th edition of his *Parliamentary Practice* as well as in Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Forms*, I feel that this amendment is in order for several reasons.

You maintained a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, that this amendment did not comply with the provisions regarding second reading or the mandate allowed at second reading stage, and you tied in the amendment with the royal recommendation. That famous royal recommendation having been dinned into our ears, we will read it at least once to see what it is all about:

His Excellency the Governor General has recommended to the House of Commons the present measure to amend the Old Age Security Act; to increase the basic amount of the monthly old age pension to one hundred dollars effective April 1, 1973 with future escalation to commence April 1, 1974;

and under Part II of the Act to clarify which year is the base year in the escalation formula and to simplify the calculation of income.

If it is at all possible to dissect the Governor General's recommendation, one will first of all find out that Part II deals with the escalation formula for the calculation of income. This means that for older citizens, for retired people, in some cases, the amount will be "X", and in others, "Y". For what reason? Because the escalation formula referred to in the Governor General's recommendation is such that the pensioners are not all placed on an equal footing, and this is contained in the recommendation. Therefore, the terms of eligibility to an identical pension are not the same for all pensioners.

Mr. Speaker, you stated that the amendment in order to be acceptable should not exceed the formal limits of the bill. Now, what does the amendment introduced by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) say? It says, and I quote:

That Bill C-147, and Act to amend the Old Age Security Act be not now read a third time but be referred again to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs—

Mr. Speaker, so far you will agree with me that the practice, the Standing Orders of the House, May's *Parliamentary Practice* and Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Forms* provided that any time in debate on third reading any member can rise from his seat and introduce a motion "that the bill be not now read a third time, but referred to the Standing Committee for further study.

That is the kind of amendment that is always in order, because as your colleague said a moment ago, when he ruled out of order the motion of the hon. member for