

al Health and Welfare. Has the Le Dain Commission report been received yet?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No, Mr. Speaker.

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

CONFISCATION OF LITERATURE BELONGING TO U.S. CITIZENS RETURNING FROM CUBA

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** I have a question for the Solicitor General of which I have given him notice. In view of the fact that in Montreal on Friday the RCMP confiscated a large quantity of personal documents belonging to United States citizens who recently returned from Cuba, and in light of the fact that this baggage had already been cleared by customs in Saint John, can the minister say whether he has investigated this situation? If so, can he explain to the House why this action was taken?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I first want to thank the hon. member for having given me notice. Unfortunately it was only received after the bell rang at two o'clock today, so I have not a full answer.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McIlraith:** In any event, I had looked into the matter and the situation is this. When the persons referred to by the hon. member entered the country, they failed to declare approximately 600 packages of literature. This literature was subsequently seized in Montreal under the authority of the Customs Act. It has not been confiscated. It is under seizure under the Customs Act. After it has been examined to see whether it is in contravention of the law, it will be dealt with either by way of confiscation or return.

**Mr. Nystrom:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give assurance that this baggage will be returned to its owners?

**Mr. McIlraith:** No, Mr. Speaker. If this literature is in the country contrary to the laws of this country, it will not be returned.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

### Old Age and Veterans' Pensions

• (3:10 p.m.)

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—CONSIDERATION OF INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSIONS AND VETERANS' PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre)** moved:

That this House calls upon the government to give consideration to an immediate and substantial increase in the basic amount of the old age security pension and in veterans' pensions and allowances, and this House also urges that still further steps be taken to improve the quality of life of all our older and retired people.

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order before the debate on this motion commences. It was agreed among the House Leaders that today would be an opposition day and that the motion would be put by the New Democratic party. However, it was not agreed that it would be a non-confidence motion. Although notice was given by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that he was bringing such a motion, there was no agreement to that effect.

In the past we have proceeded on the basis that a non-confidence motion was the prerogative of the official opposition unless there was agreement to the contrary. I understand there has been discussion among the House Leaders concerning this particular matter, but that no agreement has been reached. In the absence of our House Leader, who is currently away on official business, I rise to give notice that the procedure today should not be considered as a precedent.

There is also some doubt whether the nature of this motion can classify it as a non-confidence motion under Standing Order 58(9) or whether it should more properly come under Standing Order 58(11). The subject matter of the motion is worthy of debate and discussion in this House. We do not oppose proceeding with the debate at this time. I merely rise to file a caveat that a similar procedure in the future will have to be by way of agreement.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** At this point, Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer a comment on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka. I recognize that all he is seeking to do