

Interim Supply

nonsense we have heard today from the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe will convince the rank and file of the Canadian people that the Conservative party is a spent force in Canada. Never again can these hon. gentlemen ever expect to sit on the other side of the house. The Leader of the Opposition has suggested we should get back to the two party system in Canada and certainly there is no need in Canada—

Mr. Bell: Read the *Financial Post*.

Mr. Nicholson:—for a party more conservative than the one on the other side. The member for Dufferin-Simcoe was talking about the plight of agriculture. A year ago, his leader while a private member, moved an amendment in this house to the effect that consideration should be given by the government to the advisability of introducing during the current session legislation to create parity prices for agricultural products at levels which would ensure to the producers a fair price-cost relationship. This was at a time when he was identifying himself in the west as a friend of the farmers, but this year, when the member for Yorkton moved an amendment in almost the precise language of the amendment of a year ago, what happened? The member for Prince Albert, now the Leader of the Opposition, voted against the same proposition and this was so offensive to some of his party members in the rural ridings that five of them walked out.

An hon. Member: That is not true; that is misrepresenting everything. Even in the House of Commons it is possible to misrepresent things.

Mr. Nicholson: The hon. member cannot deny that according to the press five walked out and four of them came back to vote, almost immediately, on the main motion; the fifth one apparently did not come back. Their names are available if anyone wishes to check the *Votes and Proceedings*. Four, however, who were not prepared to stand up against their leader on the question of parity prices did come back.

Mr. Green: That is just plain rubbish.

Mr. Nicholson: I will put the names on the record the next time I stand up. They are available—

Mr. Bell: You are not going to stand up again this session, are you?

Mr. Nicholson: If it is necessary. The member for Dufferin-Simcoe was concerned about old age pensions but the Leader of the Opposition said that he would be remiss if he were to hold out promises which could not and would not be met. He later said that

he submitted that the fixation of \$75 at this time was something which he could not support, having an adequate sense of his responsibility.

With a gross national product of around \$32 billion or an average of around \$2,000 for every man, woman and child in the country, for a responsible member of parliament to say that—

Mr. Small: What does the premier of Saskatchewan say?

Mr. Nicholson: I will discuss that but the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member who is interrupting me are suggesting that old age pensions are now the responsibilities of the provinces.

Mr. Small: No, no.

Mr. Nicholson: That the province of Saskatchewan should make up that amount.

An hon. Member: Take that back.

Mr. Nicholson: Old age pensions are now a federal responsibility and \$75 a month certainly is not too much.

Mr. Rowe: Why do you not make it \$100?

Mr. Nicholson: The province of Saskatchewan makes up to \$60 a month, that is what he said. Our leader said the same thing. The Conservative party has not said anything. There is an election coming on and no member of the Conservative party has set out that their program calls for \$48, \$49, \$50 or \$60, or what have you. No one has said this is what our program calls for. I submit \$75—

An hon. Member: Our leader said today \$60—what are you talking about?

Mr. Nicholson: No, he said something like Saskatchewan.

An hon. Member: Well that is \$60.

Mr. Nicholson: He did not say that was his program. I have never heard any member of the Conservative party get up and say, "Here is our program in black and white; here is what we are going to do for the old age pensioners if we are elected." The member for Notre Dame de Grace said he could not speak for his party the other day but that he had to leave it for his leader. I submit that our old age pensioners want food; they want shelter; they want medical services. But it is suggested that the economy of Canada in the year 1957 would not stand for that. In the words of the Leader of the Opposition "I submit that the fixation of \$75 at this time is something which I cannot support, having an adequate sense of my