

Old Age Security Act Amendment

Mr. Thompson: I shall be very glad to do that, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. member answer a question?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Yes.

Mr. Thompson: Would the passage of the non-confidence motion to which the hon. member is referring have brought about a pension of \$100 a month for the old age pensioners?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): It certainly would, had it passed. I would point out to the hon. member and to the Liberals who have excused themselves on this score that had they made their stand known to the whip of their party the whip would have been fully aware what the result of the vote would be and the government would have accepted the amendment and would not have fallen. The hon. member for Red Deer might as well go back to Uganda, or wherever he spends most of his time, rather than getting up in this house and voting against an amendment that would have provided \$100 a month for our old age pensioners. He should read his speech as reported in *Hansard*. Having voted against the amendment at that time, he immediately got up and said he was personally in favour of our old age pensioners receiving \$100 a month.

Mr. Thompson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I would go on to ask the minister—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. The hon. member for Red Deer is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Thompson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member who is speaking to at least stick to the truth, to stop making personal insinuations and answer the question I asked him.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I will make a note that the hon. member has asked me to stick to the truth, and it is my intention tomorrow to rise in this house on a question of privilege and quote the hon. member's words from the record. He stood and voted against that amendment. He was the first speaker following the vote on the amendment, and at that time said he was personally in favour of a pension of \$100 a month for the old age pensioners of this country.

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

Mr. Thompson: That is right; he is in favour of it.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): You did not vote for it; you voted against it.

Mr. Thompson: You do not know what the vote was.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Again, Mr. Speaker, I explain for the benefit of the hon. member for Brantford or anybody else on that side of the house that if they had made their stand known to the whip of that party the whip would have known what the result of the vote would be and it would not have been a non-confidence vote and the government would not have had to fall. They cannot make excuses on any other score. They know that they have been out-manoeuvred ever since. What was said to the hon. member for Brantford was that he was either stupid or dishonest in his approach. The minister had this to say, as recorded on page 10707 of *Hansard*:

● (10:30 p.m.)

I am confident that members of this house will resist the temptation to get partisan mileage out of the proposal on this ground; that no attempt either intentionally or inadvertently will be made to spread the spectre of a means test among our older people.

Now I turn to page 10746 of *Hansard* where the hon. member for Brantford is reported to have said the following: "In my view there is a means test." Farther down the page he said: "Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we have a means test in front of us." I am speaking of supporters of the Liberal government on that side of the house who have contradicted their own minister and who have insisted that there is a means test contained in the old age security legislation now before us.

Why did I say to the hon. member for Brantford that he was either stupid or dishonest? I am only repeating what his own minister said with reference to anybody who referred to this program as one which contains a means test. I am quoting the minister from page 10894 of *Hansard*. He said: "Anyone"—and I should think that this would include the hon. member for Brantford—"who equates the means test with the norms set out in this program is either stupid or dishonest." If the hon. member for Brantford can live with that indictment from his own party then his sincerity and respect for the old age people in this country is very much in question considering the fact that he has had the opportunity on one or two occasions to go back