

270,000 Canadians -- the aged and the blind -- are now receiving old age pensions, recently increased by the Federal Government to a basic level of \$40 a month. In Newfoundland, through the initiative of Premier Smallwood, I am glad to announce that the agreement has now been signed with the Federal Government under which pensions up to \$30 a month will be paid from April 1st to all those on the pensions rolls of this province and as soon as possible -- when their applications have been received -- to others aged 70 and over who need assistance, or who are blind and have reached the age of 21.

(b) Family Allowances:

I was glad in April to authorize, on behalf of the Federal Government, the payment of Family Allowances to all Newfoundland children that were eligible. The Family Allowances Act, which became law in 1944, has been described as the finest single social measure of our time. There is no measure of which the Liberal Party can feel prouder. Under this Act more than 4,000,000 children in nearly 1,800,000 families are receiving assistance every month so that they can have better clothing, better food, so that they can be better housed and better cared for and so that they can continue at school for a longer period.

For this province alone, when all applications are in, an estimated 49,000 families with 135,000 children will receive these allowances, totalling nearly \$800,000 every month. It is difficult to over-estimate the value of these allowances for our children. Certainly there could be no more far-sighted investment in the citizens of the future.

(c) National Health Program

Just a year ago, the Federal Government brought in a measure to raise health levels in Canada that has been recognized as the greatest advance in our health history. This is the National Health Program under which, over a five-year period, \$165,000,000 is being expended to supplement provincial health programs.

For Newfoundland, in the current fiscal year, a total of \$923,000 is available to further all the splendid plans of your health officers through Premier Smallwood's government.

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