

*Old Age Security Act Amendment*

**Mr. Fulton:** I say it is fortunate that one does not find oneself in that position of necessity very often, but the minister has placed us in that position tonight because he has given not one argument or answer to the merits of the proposals made on this side of the house or the amendment now before us on third reading. About all the minister has done is pose. Pose, I say, and I say it deliberately. It is a pose that ill befits him as a friend of the old age pensioners, because he is not. He is their enemy.

We hear about the Christmas spirit. In this bill, whether the minister likes it or not—and I know it is not deliberate on the part of the hon. gentleman—he is not serving the best interests of the old age pensioner. We hear a great deal about Scrooge. I think the Minister of National Health and Welfare must have observed well what his colleague the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) said last night. This minister had a good lesson in Scroogeship last night. We hear about other Dickensian characters. We had before us in the speech given by the Minister of National Health and Welfare a perfect illustration of another children's rhyme. I refer to the rhyme about Little Jack Horner. You remember that Little Jack Horner sat in a corner, eating his Christmas pie, and he stuck in his thumb and pulled out a plum and said, "What a good boy am I". And all the good Liberals applauded him as he said, "What a good boy am I". But he pulled out a plum only for this government; he pulled out no plums for the old age pensioners.

The minister spoke a great deal about hypocrisy. At the conclusion of his speech he accused those on this side of the house of hypocrisy, and he used the word "humbug." He said, "How can those who used these words", which he placed on the record, "to describe this legislation follow a course, if they are sincere, other than to vote against it?" I tell the minister that the word "humbug" ill comes from him and his government who have adopted in connection with this legislation the most hypocritical attitude of any government in the history of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fulton:** We recently passed, against a good deal of opposition and constructive criticism, a measure to implement medicare. With regard to medicare the government clutched to their bosom the principle of universality. These social measures, they said, had to be universally applicable and anyone who opposed the principle of medicare was opposing

the best interests of the country. That was the attitude of the minister, who now pretends to be disinterested in this discussion. He looks up to the gallery where sit the officials of the Liberal party who provided him with his partisan speech.

The attitude of the minister with regard to medicare was that everything must be universal. This is the minister who repudiates that principle when he brings in a measure which he says is designed to assist the old age pensioners of Canada. Now it must be carefully selective, and selective on the basis of snooping. The minister's officials will determine who is qualified to receive this benefit. We are going to be selective on the basis of the government's say-so. If there was ever an example of hypocrisy, it was revealed in the reversal of this government from their stand on medicare to their stand on the old age pension legislation. It is a complete and typical illustration of hypocrisy.

I say to the minister that we are not going to be frightened by his ranting and roaring. We shall vote on the amendment to third reading moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Next week.

**Mr. Fulton:** —next week, or whenever it comes up for a vote. We will take our stand on it. We are not afraid to take our stand. We are not going to be bamboozled by this loud-mouthed minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fulton:** We shall also take our stand on the vote on third reading. Little Jack Horner may have put in his thumb and pulled out a plum for himself, but he has pulled out a very small plum for the old people of Canada. They will understand perfectly well that after fighting as best we can to get this wretched bill improved, and having all our amendments rejected by the minister, it remains almost as bad a measure as it was when he first introduced it. But it still gives the old people a small plum, a plum which the government is trying to make a big plum for itself, and we would rather see the old people of Canada get a small plum than nothing at all. That is about all they are going to get—small plums from this government. There is no inconsistency, shame or hypocrisy on our part in voting reluctantly on third reading for this inadequate, pitiful, miserable measure in order that whatever may be derived in benefit therefrom may be secured for the old people