

has not been too generous. Some provinces have granted as much as \$10 a month to supplement the \$30 paid by the federal government. The Manitoba government offered a payment of \$5 per month on condition that the municipalities pay an equal amount. There was such a row in the legislature as a result that the province was obliged to give the \$5 unconditionally. It is a coalition government, and I do not criticise it from partisan motives; but I believe the \$5, which was about all the province could afford, should have been granted without delay, and the issue with the municipalities fought out later.

When the new parliament assembles, the subject of pensions is one to which we should give early attention.

Hon. R. B. Horner: When I was home recently I met a man who told me that he had had a discussion with an old age pensions inspector. Although this man had been receiving the pension for about two years, there was no record in the office that any of the cheques had been either cashed or returned. Upon investigation it appeared that none of the letters had even been opened. When the inspector asked this man, "Don't you need the money?" he said no, that he had two cows and was doing all right and didn't need anything more. Whether or not competition from margarine will prevent him from earning a living in future, I do not know. The inspector suggested that if he did not need the cheques he had better return them, so the old man—he is seventy-four years of age—opened a little tin box and handed out the letters and cheques, remarking, "You would take this money from my estate, and I don't want to give my children property which is subject to any debt." Honourable senators may regard this man as somewhat of an oddity, because he always voted for me, but I think he is a fine type of citizen.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: With leave of the Senate, now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

DIVORCE STATISTICS, 1948-49

FINAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, on behalf of the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, I should like to pre-

sent the final report of the Standing Committee on Divorce for the 1948-49 session of parliament. Perhaps it may be called a progress report, because the divorce work scheduled for this session has not been completed, and the report is being presented for the purpose of making the statistics available to anyone who wishes to inquire into this problem.

Honourable senators, it is apparent that a federal election will be held in the near future and that a new House of Commons will be elected. I seriously submit that the new parliament will have to do one of two things: it will either have to stop haggling about the work of the Senate Divorce Committee or suggest some other method of handling Quebec divorces. One possible solution of the problem would be to add one or more judges to the Exchequer Court of Canada, with power to hear divorce evidence. Parliament could then act upon their reports. There may be other ways of solving the problem.

I would remind honourable senators that not one of us who serves on the Divorce Committee wishes to do this kind of work. Let this be understood; we do not want to do it. We have no love for this work, but after serving on the committee for a number of years we realize that we cannot throw our duties overboard until somebody else takes on the job. It is the practice of the Senate Divorce Committee, which is made up of members from the western and eastern provinces, to sit on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, when the Ontario and Quebec members of this chamber have "hiked" for home. Western and Maritime members have had to carry the load now for eighty-three years, and they are getting a little tired of it.

Honourable senators, I move the adoption of the report.

The report was then read by the Clerk Assistant as follows:

The Standing Committee on Divorce beg leave to submit its one hundred and eighty-ninth and Final Report for the 1949 Session of Parliament, as follows:—

Divorce Statistics, 1949

For the present session 341 petitions for Bills of Divorce were presented to the Senate and dealt with by the Committee on Divorce as follows:

Petitions heard and recommended	184
Petitions withdrawn	2
Petitions not heard due to impending termination of session	155

Total

341

Of the petitions recommended during the present session 43 were by husbands and 141 by wives. All petitioners are domiciled in the province of Quebec. The committee held 17 meetings. On 14 days the committee functioned in two sections.

In 36 cases the committee recommended that part of the parliamentary fees be remitted.

Assuming that all Bills of Divorce recommended by the committee now in various stages before