

Senator Phillips: I think it is a valid point of order.

Senator Martin: I should like to follow through on this. May I pursue my question, Mr. Chairman?

Senator Phillips: In accordance with parliamentary procedure, if you are going to refer to certain documents, those documents should be produced, and I am now asking for those mailouts and advertisements which are done at the taxpayers' expense, and I want them now. I am quite in order in asking for them.

The Chairman: My ruling is that your point of order is not well taken. If the committee wants to rule otherwise they are . . .

Senator Flynn: You are very brave.

Senator Phillips: Yes, you are very brave. In the meantime . . .

The Chairman: There is a question, Senator Phillips.

Senator Martin: Mr. Bergevin, you told us . . .

Senator Phillips: This is not a meeting between Senator Martin and yourself, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Senator Martin has the right to ask questions too.

Senator Phillips: Well, he referred to certain documents, and I think this committee should have those documents.

Senator Hastings: Mr. Chairman, I believe those documents were going to be prepared over the weekend. They are not prepared now.

Senator Phillips: He said they would be published. He did not say they were going to be prepared.

Senator Hastings: I heard they were to be printed on the weekend.

Senator Martin: May I pursue my question, Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Yes.

Senator Phillips: I ask . . .

The Chairman: Please, Senator Phillips! I am the Chairman. Please, Senator Flynn, let us have some order.

Senator Flynn: I have not been speaking. What is the matter with you?

Senator Phillips: You are not going to have order if you conduct this hearing the way you are.

The Chairman: Senator Martin has been asking a few questions.

Senator Flynn: What are you asking me now? I did not say a thing. I have been silent for two minutes. Let us keep me that way.

Senator Martin: You have said that Monday is the last day.

Mr. Bergevin: Yes. We are waiting for the terms of the legislation before getting the final draft, of course.

Senator Martin: What is the last day?

Mr. Bergevin: There is another deadline that we have to meet. There is also the insert with the June cheque, which also requires that we have the final draft of it over the weekend.

Senator Martin: What does that insert contain?

Mr. Bergevin: That insert will contain details concerning the various rates for basic OAS and the guaranteed income supplement for single and married couples.

Senator Martin: Does it also include the escalation?

Mr. Bergevin: It does, and the retroactivity.

Senator Martin: For January, February and March. It is a complicated structure then, is it not?

Mr. Bergevin: We have definitely to explain that to the pensioners, because they will not understand why they get a cheque of such-and-such an amount.

Senator Martin: It is an explanatory thing to them of the nature of the cheque they receive.

Senator Phillips: A wonderful explanation ! Keith Davey has been repaid.

Senator Martin: We are thinking of the old age pensioners.

The Chairman: Senator Phillips.

[Translation]

Senator Flynn: This is only a text which you have prepared?

Mr. J. B. Bergevin Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (Welfare) Department of National Health and Welfare: A text of the Department . . .

Senator Flynn: An explanatory text of the modifications according to the law?

Mr. Bergevin: Precisely, and that is included in their cheque, in other words, for five months retroactive.

Senator Flynn: Frankly speaking, is that letter not written already?

Mr. Bergevin: Of course, we have a first version, that is a version of the bill as proposed to the government.

Senator Flynn: All right.

Mr. Bergevin: But when we are requested to set up a program and have the text sent to the printer by Monday morning, at the latest, I surely must have the final version.

Senator Flynn: You could follow the same procedure as the Department of Revenue in terms of the Income tax Act, and prepare the text before the law is passed—have it printed since you already know what will go in it?

Mr. Bergevin: That is not my responsibility.

Senator Flynn: I know it is not your responsibility.