

Old Age Security

just before the next election—who knows? On the basis of past experience, I am sure we can expect this to happen. Rather than give an increase now when it is needed and desired, the government will save up a further measure for granting an increase until just before the next election, timing it very propitiously. I suggest the elderly people of this country will not be fooled by a continuation of this type of tactic if, in fact, this is what the government does have in mind.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It will probably be another \$6.

Mr. Burton: It could be another \$6, as suggested by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. It might be more than that, because the Liberal party was bitten when it made such an increase once before, though I am not sure they have learned any lessons from that. I suggest we must be concerned about the process of alienation that is manifesting itself in our society. We hear many reports of alienation today with respect to our young people, the unemployed, the low-income groups, and so on. I suggest our elderly people are also becoming alienated. If we pass this measure in the form proposed by the government it will, I suggest, contribute to the social phenomenon we have come to regard very seriously today, the alienation of people from our institutions and from the recognized processes of society.

I also suggest we must consider the whole area of poverty. I am sure the minister knows very well what happens to pensioners who have only very little more income than it is possible for them to have and still qualify for the guaranteed income supplement. Many of these people are reduced to finding ways and means of

tackling the desperate income problem they are facing at the present time. As I have said, I am sure they look with a very sceptical eye when they see that we now have higher pensions for Members of Parliament—a measure passed in the current Parliament—higher pensions for retired civil servants, higher pensions for members of the armed forces and higher pensions for the RCMP, all of which we approve.

This basic pension has been in effect since 1966—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, would someone on the government side confirm for the record what we know from private conversation, namely, that Bill C-205 dealing with regional development will be debated tomorrow?

Mr. Francis: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there is to be a continuation of the debate on the bill now before the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The understanding given to me was that it would be either bill C-202 or Bill C-205.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.