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PAPIER DE COULEUR

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paying only \$30.00 a month. The CCF members at Ottawa moved an amendment asking for \$50.00 a month but ~~it~~ this was turned down. Consequently the Saskatchewan Legislature voted the money to ~~pay~~ pay the province's share of a \$30.00 a month pension. Now the Liberal newspapers would have you believe that we have cheated the old age pensioner out of a \$5.00 a month. As a matter of fact, the old age pensioners are getting a good deal more than they received when we took office and if we add to their pension the cost of the health services, they are receiving more in Saskatchewan than they are receiving in most of the provinces in Canada.

Now I am not arguing for one moment that the old age pension is adequate. On the contrary, we have taken the position that it is totally inadequate but we maintain at the same time that the Federal Government ought to assume its fair share of the increase in the old age pension which is so urgently needed. We are continuing to press upon Ottawa the need for convening a Dominion-Provincial conference on social security matters and the absolute necessity for raising the old age pension while at the same time retaining the same ratio of responsibility between the Federal and provincial governments as has existed during the past 16 years. If Ottawa refuses to raise the old age pension, then the Government of Saskatchewan will have no other course left open to it but to recommend to the Legislature that additional assistance be given to our old people, to be paid for out of provincial revenue. I want to point out, however, that if this is done we are simply relieving the Federal Government of what are its legitimate responsibilities and that if we spend provincial revenue to discharge the Federal Government's ~~in~~ obligations, we cannot spend that money to look after those people who are the sole responsibility of the province. There are in Saskatchewan, as in every province, thousands of crippled and physically incapacitated people who ought to be receiving a pension. More adequate provision for widows and orphans is badly needed and in ~~most~~ almost every province of Canada larger expenditures are required ~~to~~ for child welfare, juvenile delinquency and other social services. In Saskatchewan we have ~~recently~~ instituted a fairly extensive social welfare program. Already we are spending for these social welfare services \$4.32 per capita of our population as compared with \$2.68 in Alberta, \$1.68 in Ontario and \$1.44 in Manitoba. This program needs to be expanded and intensified. The groups I have mentioned are the sole responsibilities of the provincial government. No