

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

made reference to confusion among pensioners relative to the guaranteed income supplement. I would like to advise him that the program is operating exceedingly well and with a minimum of difficulty when we consider that in the course of a very short space of time we have been able to make supplement payments to more than 700,000 old age security pensioners. The application of the guaranteed income principle has meant that all old age security pensioners have been guaranteed a minimum income of \$105 per month.

The income test which is applied is a very simple one based on the applicant's income for the previous year. Because of this, the program requires an annual return in order that eligibility can be maintained. It is not a means test. A means test requires a very close look at a person's assets, property, etc. The income test is very similar to that which more well-to-do persons must carry out in completing an income tax return. It is simply a matter of the applicant declaring to the department his income for the previous year.

It does not single out any individual, but treats everybody alike. The application of this principle has meant more money in the hands of those old age security pensioners who need it most—and surely this is as it should be.

I think hon. members might well be interested in knowing that in the next fiscal year some \$264 million will be paid out to old age security pensioners as a supplement to their basic pension. The cost of the basic pension for the same year will be \$1,317 million.

With regard to veterans, I should like to point out that the allowance paid under the war veterans allowance program is far higher than that paid under the old age security guaranteed income supplement program. Notwithstanding this, a number of war veterans allowance recipients whose income is below \$105 per month are being assisted under the guaranteed income supplement program.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.26 p.m.