# HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Monday, June 12, 1972**

The House met at 2 p.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING, LOANS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, FINANCING OF CORPORATION, NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT, ETC.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-213, to amend the National Housing Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

OLD AGE SECURITY AND GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT

Question No. 333—**Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay):**

1. How many persons receive (a) Old Age Security (b) Guaranteed Income Supplement?

2. What was the net cost of (a) the basic Old Age Security (b) the Guaranteed Income Supplement for the fiscal year 1970-71?

3. What percentage of the federal budget do these expenditures represent?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** 1. (a) As of January, 1972, 1,759,036; (b) as of January, 1972, 976,225.

2. (a) $1,627,219,132; (b) $280,005,371. However, increases in benefits under the Guaranteed Income Supplement effective April 1, 1971, brought expenditures close to $525 million for the fiscal year 1971-72.

3. Expenditures on Old Age Security pensions and the Guaranteed Income Supplement are not themselves included in federal budget expenditures, because these payments are made from a separate fund designated for this purpose, namely the Old Age Security Fund. However, in 1970-71, expenditures on Old Age Security pension benefits and the Guaranteed Income Supplement were 12.71 per cent of total federal budgetary and non-budgetary expenditures, on a national accounts basis. These expenditures for 1972-73 are estimated at $2,555 million which represent 13.45 per cent of estimated federal budgetary and non-budgetary expenditures for that year.

FAMILY INCOMES

Question No. 343—**Mr. Mather:**

1. Does the government have information on the estimated income which will provide a modest but adequate Canadian standard of living for a family of four and, if so, what is the estimate?

2. What percentage of Canadian families make less than $5,000 a year?

3. What percentage of Canadian families make less than $10,000 per year?

**Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** I am informed by the Departments of National Health and Welfare and Statistics Canada as follows: 1. There is no existing official statistical concept of poverty in Canada. However, Statistics Canada has established low-income cut-offs which have been used to delineate low-income families from other units. For a family of four, in 1969, the income cut-off was set at $4,420. In its report, the Special Senate Committee on Poverty has recommended that basic allowance rates be set initially at $3,500 for a family of four. Among provincially established social assistance programs in January 1972, the annual rate of benefits for a family of four ranged from $2,604 in Nova Scotia to $3,252 in Ontario. Also, under the proposed Family Income Security Plan, a family of four, depending on whether there are two or three children, will receive full benefits where family income is less than $5,000 or $5,500 respectively.

2 and 3. The most recent figures available on incomes are for the year 1969. The following income figures include income from investments and government transfer payments as well as income from employment. 24.8 per cent of families had incomes below $5,000 per year; 66.6 per cent of families had incomes below $10,000 per year.

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN

Question No. 355—**Mr. Robinson:**

What is the estimated amount of money that will be paid to recipients under the new family allowance program, does this exceed the amount paid out under the old plan and, if so, by how much?

**Hon. John Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** The proposed Family Income Security Plan will replace not only the family allowances program, but also the current youth allowances progam. The estimated cost of the Family Income Security Plan in the first year of operation and the amount now expended on current programs, including Quebec schooling allowances, are $820