

Interim Supply

sioned officer in the 97-year history of the R.C.M.P. to ever be convicted of defalcation while holding down his office. We are paying him \$6,600 just to show what a good guy he is. I will vote with a heavy heart for interim supply, part of which will also pay the pension of Sub-Inspector Joseph Hosanna Maurice Poitras.

While I will support the motion because Government must go on, I certainly would like to see less interference with the operations of the R.C.M.P. If R.C.M.P. officers were allowed to operate that division of the Government as they can operate it, and as they are able to operate it,—and they are the ones who built up its reputation over this 97 year period,—there would be higher morale in that arm of the Government than there is today, because of political interference from time to time. I am proud to stand here and say that I have the utmost confidence in Commissioner McClellan of the R.C.M.P., and I hope that there are other Members of Parliament who will say as much for the R.C.M.P. in spite of the attacks made on that force by two Members of this House yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, it is now apparent that before very long this House of Commons will be taking a recess. This is a rather unusual experience in the parliamentary lives of the newer Members. They probably do not know what a recess is, in view of the way in which we have been sitting more or less continuously since the 1963 election. I am sure that we all agree that a recess is desirable. It is desirable for the Members themselves in order that they can have a break from their duties here in Ottawa and meet with their constituents a little more than has been possible these past few years. It is also desirable for the Government, so that it will have an opportunity to give a little more attention to the legislation it intends to bring to Parliament.

Nevertheless I regret, Mr. Chairman, that we are leaving at this point so much unfinished business. I know that at this stage of the session any pleas I might make to the Government that certain things be done before we rise will probably fall on deaf ears, but I should like to state some of these important items, with the hope that they will be given consideration during the recess and that we will see action on them soon after we resume the business of the House in September.

The first item I should like to mention is the amount of the old age security pension. We had a good deal of discussion about this at the meetings of the Committee on the Canada

Pension Plan which met during the Christmas recess some months ago. Those who were Members of that Committee will recall that we tried to get motions passed to recommend that the old age security pension be increased to a \$100 a month. We were not successful but there was expressed, particularly by Liberal members of the committee, the opinion that something needed to be done to improve the position of those now on pension and those who would not qualify for pensions under the Canada Pension Plan, and they also expressed the view that something would be done.

• (6:40 p.m.)

One improvement was effected when the qualifying age for old age security was lowered from age 70 to age 65. However, this is coming down only on a year by year basis. The qualifying age will be 69 in 1966 and so on, until it becomes age 65 in 1970. This is a good move but, Mr. Chairman, it is no help to those who are now on the old age security pension. It is my very strong view that this Government and this Parliament will not get away with what they have failed to do in the old age pension field, and that action is going to have to be taken with regard to the amount of the old age security pension. I earnestly plead that the Government during the recess, if it does not find it possible to do it tonight, reconsider its position with regard to the amount of the old age security pension.

I have a resolution on the order paper, now fourth on the list of private Members' notices of motions, which seeks this very thing. It asks that the Government give consideration to the advisability of introducing a measure to increase the amount of the pension provided under the Old Age Security Act to \$100 per month. I feel this is a matter of the utmost importance and I regret that, despite the wide support there is among Members of Parliament for doing something in this direction, we are going on recess without having increased the old age security pension from its present level of \$75 a month. This is not good enough.

I move immediately, Mr. Chairman, to another subject which is related and indeed is a subject that the Government has related to the question about which I have just been talking. I refer to the Government's proposal to bring in what is to be known as the Canada Assistance Plan. This was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne at the start of the session, and it was outlined in some detail by the Prime Minister when he spoke

[Mr. Cowan.]