

Supply—Health and Welfare

- Kirk (Antigonish-Guysborough)
- Kirk (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare)
- LaCroix
- Lafontaine
- Langlois (Gaspé)
- Lavigne
- Leduc (Jacques Cartier-Lasalle)
- Lefrançois
- Lusby
- McCann
- McIlraith
- McWilliam
- Masse
- Matheson
- Menard
- Michaud
- Monette
- Murphy (Westmorland)
- Pearson
- Power (St. John's West)
- Prudham
- Purdy
- Richard (Ottawa East)
- Richard (St. Maurice-Laféche)
- Richardson
- Roberge
- Robertson
- St. Laurent (Quebec East)
- Schneider
- Shiple, Mrs.
- Stuart (Charlotte)
- Studer
- Thibault
- Tucker
- Viau
- Weaver
- Weir
- Winters—68.

Mr. Green: This vote is the administration item in connection with family allowances and old age security. Since the house last met, one or two weaknesses in the regulations have come to my attention, and I should like to place them before the minister tonight.

The first has to do with family allowances. We have in Vancouver a boys' band known as the Kitsilano boys' band, which has been conducted for quite a few years by Mr. Arthur Delamont. It is a very famous band and has played here in front of the parliament buildings on different occasions. Mr. Delamont has taken these boys to Great Britain and the continent on several different occasions. Apparently the minister's department has ruled that when one of these lads is away for more than three months, then the family allowance must be repaid. I have actually had one of those cases come to my attention.

I do not believe that is proper under the terms of the Family Allowances Act itself. The act provides in section 4, subsection (2) (b) that the allowance shall cease if the child ceases to be a resident in Canada. I think if the regulations are such that the allowances are cancelled in cases such as the one I have mentioned, then those regulations go farther than is permitted by the act. The condition should be the residence of the family in a case like that, and there certainly has been no change of residence. These boys have gone on these trips as members of the band, and I think the minister's department is making a mistake in cancelling the allowances under those conditions.

Then the next case has to do with the Old Age Security Act regulations. This old age security to Canadians over 70 is paid entirely by the dominion, so there can be no argument that the provinces have to be consulted about the regulations. This is purely a federal payment, and it is made on a contributory basis. The government itself has asserted time and time again that our old age security payments are contributory. The people are contributing by way of additional taxation imposed for the purpose of providing old age security. In view of these facts I think that there should be some change made to cover cases such as the following.

In the first place, Canadians employed abroad by Canadian firms should be covered. For example, take a man who represents one of our great newspaper firms in London. I know of a case of that kind. This man represented Canadian newspapers in London for quite a few years. When he retired he came back to Canada, but he cannot get the pension because of the time he was in the

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Mr. Gillis: I was paired with the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin). Had I voted I would have voted for the bill.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Family allowances and old age security—
278. Administration, \$2,693,059.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): There is a question I should like to direct to the minister. One of his senior officials was in Winnipeg at the beginning of June, and apparently he made a speech there which was reported or misreported in one of the Winnipeg newspapers. His remarks were to the effect that a third world war was certain. I just wonder if the minister can give me the facts of the situation.

Mr. Martin: Well, Mr. Chairman, all I can say is that I presume my hon. friend is talking about one of the officials in our family allowances division, for whom we have the highest admiration. I am sure he would not be guilty of any deliberate indiscretion. I am quite sure that if he was reported as having said that, there must have been some inaccuracy in the report.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): Can the minister ascertain the facts for me?

Mr. Martin: I will be glad to.