

Old Age Security

meeting these and other expenditures other than by imposing a greater tax load on the individual taxpayer. Again, I urge the government to give careful consideration to making the \$10 increase in these pensions retroactive to April 8.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say only a few words on this resolution.

This last vote has made perfectly clear that the government refuses to give a retroactive effect to this raise to government pensioners. If we are to get that pension increase, it is because of the pressures exerted by our leader and by us who sit on this side of the house, because otherwise, government pensioners would not get that increase of \$10 per month.

I hope that the government will reconsider its position and grant retroactivity to this pension raise to April 8, in order to be logical with itself and carry out the promises made during the last few weeks.

Mr. Chairman, we introduced an amendment which was turned down by the government, but in face of the pressures exerted by the official opposition and by the Canadian people, the government is forced to retreat, and has to comply with our demands and grant that pension raise, I strongly advise the minister, if she wants to be able to face the electorate again, to grant retroactivity to this increase as from April 8 last.

Mr. Chairman, we on this side of the house, were amazed and astonished by the statements made recently by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss LaMarsh) against the province of Quebec, against the people of that province. Clause 94 (a) of the constitution stipulates that in our provinces—

[Text]

Miss LaMarsh: I think the hon. member was present in the house when I rose this afternoon and denied having made the statement attributed to me. I denied having said anything of that kind to any person.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I have high regard for the opinion of the minister, but her statement came as a great surprise to me as all the newspapers throughout this country have reported the statements that she has made to the *Globe and Mail* and that have been published in all Canada's French newspapers.

[Text]

Mr. Pickersgill: I am rising on a point of order. It is a well-known rule of this house, and surely, an experienced member like the

hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm should know it, that when an hon. member makes a statement about any statement he or she may have made to somebody else we have an obligation as gentlemen to accept the hon. member's word.

[Translation]

The Chairman: I am sure the hon. member understands the situation and will take into consideration the suggestions which have just been made to him.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I merely ask the minister to tell the house which one of her statements I quoted, and I shall then withdraw the words I credited to her.

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member must understand that this is not the question period. If he has a statement or a speech to make, he should make it. If he decides that he has nothing more to say, I shall recognize another member. But he cannot require another member to make a statement in reply to a suggestion he has made himself.

[Text]

Mr. Churchill: With respect, Mr. Chairman, during the resolution stage it is altogether permissible to ask questions of ministers.

The Chairman: The type of question to which I was referring is a question such as was asked by the hon. member. He said he is not in agreement, possibly, with what had been declared by the minister and he wanted the minister to reiterate what she had already said.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Chairman, I have not quoted as yet any of the minister's words but I was just going to do so. Now, I will give the minister the extracts from the French newspapers and from all this country's newspapers. Should the minister believe—

Mr. Caron: She has denied it.

Mr. Pigeon: What has she denied?

Mr. Caron: She has categorically denied it.

Mr. Pigeon: What is it she has denied?

[Text]

An hon. Member: Five o'clock.

The Chairman: It being five o'clock it is my duty to leave the chair in order that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.