

is no net inflationary aspect. This is their argument.

I listened to the hon. member debate a private member's motion by which he was going to increase pensions immediately to \$125 per month without a means test, and incorporate the guaranteed supplement into the basic pension. He was going to reduce the age for payment to 65 immediately. By my calculations—I have not done the refinements that may have been done by the hon. member, and there is no amount in the supporting speech by the hon. member for Perth, a former minister of national health and welfare—it amounted to something like \$750 millions of additional expenditures. I can see that the hon. member does not apparently quarrel with the estimate I am presenting.

Expenditures from the old age security fund amount to something like \$1,500 million, and this would add something like a 50 per cent increase to these expenditures, in one bite. Mr. Chairman, we have to bear in mind the point of priorities, and I submit to you and the members of this house that the program the member for Winnipeg North Centre and members of his group have placed before us is a program of inflation. In the next breath they talk about programs of research to find a means of establishing adequate pensions and how to counter inflation.

Research does not have to be that extensive, if you listen to the speech made yesterday in Victoria by Mr. Rasminsky, governor of the Bank of Canada. He pointed to the very imminent dangers of inflation and the need for responsibility in respect of fiscal matters by the government.

This is considered to be right wing. There are various other references that can be pointed to when you have to think of inflationary consequences and the government at this time has to put forward a program which does relate to inflation. May I submit that the program which the hon. member put forward was the equivalent of throwing gasoline on a fire, in the theory that this was the way to put it out more quickly. Certainly with this program, which he and his group have put before this house, if it were adopted at this stage the inflationary consequences would be very serious, indeed. The need to have more and more research, to find more and more measures, to provide a basic pension and to compensate for inflation would become greater. This is a difficult and vicious circle. There appears to be no end to it.

Supply—National Health and Welfare

There is no question that in concentrating on the methods by which social welfare and health benefits should be looked after, and we all agree that they should be—we are not complacent about these matters—we must consider the inflationary results. We do not suggest that the program we have presented is the complete answer. We all know that much more has to be done.

No one is a more vigorous spokesman on this behalf than the minister himself, when he spoke in introducing the estimates before this house. There is no magic by which we can produce \$700 million to cover the costs of the suggested resolution, which the hon. member put forth in good faith. There is no means by which we can touch on all the programs very ably described by the hon. member for Simcoe North. There is no means by which we can do the very many things we want done and still meet the requirements of the President of the Treasury Board which have been placed before this house, particularly on the basis of what the governor of the Bank of Canada has said about this stage in the development of our Canadian economy. This is true of the advice in respect of measures that must be taken on the broader front of balancing incentives for growth, and the increase of national income in this country, and some measures which may reduce inflation and restore price stability.

In the course of the last election campaign in my own constituency the positions taken by my Conservative opponent and by my New Democratic opponent were almost precisely the same on this matter. They both agreed on the kind of resolution which was presented by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, supported by the hon. member for Perth. That hon. member defended that resolution before this house not very long ago. They also said at the same time they were against inflation. They said they were going to fight inflation. They said there should be tremendous energy and resources used to bring stability to the economy so that the older people who were living on fixed incomes and retirement pensions should not have to suffer this grave injustice and the erosion of their standard of living because of increased prices. In the very next breath they advocated programs which would contribute to inflation to a degree which would be almost unbelievable.

In looking at the estimates which are before us, please remember that we cannot be schizophrenic about this matter. We cannot