

Canada Pension Plan

year of \$110 million. It should be mentioned that this category of payment includes 50 per cent of any supplementary payment by a province over and above the regular old age security or other welfare payments.

An hon. Member: What about the pension plan?

Mr. Monteith: I think it should be pointed out—

Mr. Starr: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the hon. member for Perth would excuse me for a moment? My point of order is this: When the Minister of National Health and Welfare read her statement we listened attentively and courteously. Now, the hon. member for Perth is making a statement on behalf of the official opposition and I think the same courtesy should be extended to him by the arrogant members of this arrogant government.

An hon. Member: What about the arrogance displayed by the members of the opposition?

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Chairman, I think it should be pointed out—

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Monteith: I think it should be pointed out that prior to our amendments some five provinces had had agreements with the federal government. After this legislation was amended all provinces signed agreements with the federal government.

I am going to mention hospital insurance, which is certainly one of the most important pieces of legislation ever brought into being in this country. I feel it should be mentioned. During the first year we were in office, that is until March 31, 1958, there were no expenditures for hospital insurance. Last year, according to the white paper issued by the Minister of Finance there was an expenditure of \$390 million in this regard.

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Monteith: We all know, Mr. Chairman, what a boon this has been to the people of Canada. Nobody can dispute this. Let us not hear it said, as the Minister of National Health and Welfare did on July 18 last, that the previous government had done nothing toward benefiting the people of Canada by way of social justice. We admit that the law was put on the statute books by a Liberal government, but under pressure from the premier of Ontario, Mr. Frost. They must, in turn, admit that the law could not be effective until an amendment permitting any province to join in the scheme was passed. Following that, we signed an agreement with all ten provinces and the two territories.

[Mr. Monteith.]

There were, Mr. Chairman, many other things, such as a welfare grants program which I had the honour of presenting to this house. I happen to know how much these grants were appreciated by the people in the field. This move had been recommended by the Canadian Welfare Council. As we all know, the funds available were to start at \$500,000 a year and increase by a like amount annually until a total of \$2.5 million had been reached. I would point out that the Hall royal commission on health needs was instituted by the previous government, consequent on the realization that there were some inadequacies and we wished to find out what they were. This, again, was a course of action dictated by Conservative principles and philosophy. We did want to know just what the situation was across Canada before action was taken, and as a consequence we asked this royal commission to make a very comprehensive study of the whole field. We are told that the commission is to report soon, and we are looking forward with great anticipation to its findings.

There are so many other fields in which the government of which I had the honour to be a member took positive steps. There was the \$5 million annual grant for fitness and amateur sports. Then there were increases and adjustments for war veterans pensions and allowances. There were the steps taken by the minister of labour. There were so many, in fact that I could not enumerate them all here.

Mr. Haidasz: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I believe that when the house granted the hon. member for Perth the courtesy of speaking beyond the 30 minute limit, we extended that courtesy to him subject to his remarks being germane to the resolution and not straying as much as he has.

Mr. Churchill: In so far as the point of order is concerned, Mr. Chairman, I would refer you to rule 31. You will observe that a minister moving a government order and a member speaking in reply immediately after such minister is not limited as to time.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: I would refer the hon. member to standing order 59 (3).

Mr. Knowles: I was just going to say, Mr. Chairman, that I am surprised the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre has not read the whole of standing order 31. Had he done so, he would have seen it does not apply to the committee stage.

An hon. Member: Why not sit down and read the whole of the book for a change?

Mr. Monteith: I would only put one question to the house. I am wondering upon what