

*Old Age Security Act Amendment*

to speak. I did not ask that our sitting be conditional upon the bill being given second reading.

**Mr. Herridge:** Speaking for this party, Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can come to a conclusion at this time with respect to the house leader's offer.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I am afraid my suggestion was not understood, Mr. Speaker. I said we were quite agreeable to rising for one hour now for dinner, and I suggested to the house that if we had not completed the second reading stage of this bill by ten o'clock, we should continue the debate until eleven o'clock to have that many more speeches finished. This might be helpful later on when we are trying to fix the adjournment for the Christmas recess.

**Mr. Aiken:** We will sit for an hour, but not necessarily to give the bill second reading?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Speaker, the house leader is far too optimistic in assuming that we could complete second reading of this bill even if we sat an additional hour.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I did not suggest that, Mr. Speaker. This is the point I have made repeatedly. I was not assuming that the bill be given second reading at that time. I said I would only ask for an extra hour's sitting from ten o'clock to eleven o'clock, if we had not given the bill second reading before then. I was not making any assumption that we would have given it second reading by that time.

**Mr. Patterson:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the suggestion is valid, namely, that we should rise for an hour at this time. Then, as far as we are concerned, if there is an indication that the bill could be expedited by sitting another hour and possibly completing it, we would be in agreement to so doing.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I understand the suggestion is that the house will suspend its sitting from six o'clock to seven o'clock, and if second reading has not been given by ten o'clock the house will sit for one hour until eleven o'clock.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Starr:** Without any obligation that second reading will then be completed.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Agreed.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the house agree?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is so ordered. Accordingly, I do now leave the chair.

SITTING SUSPENDED

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 7 p.m.

**OLD AGE SECURITY ACT AMENDMENT**

PROVISION OF GUARANTEED INCOME  
SUPPLEMENT AND DETERMINATION  
OF PENSIONERS' INCOMES

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of Bill No. C-251, to amend the Old Age Security Act.

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East):** Mr. Speaker, we have heard a number of speeches on the subject of a guaranteed minimum income. I think they have been very good speeches, but it is apparent that there is a great deal of fallacy with regard to the guaranteed income program. I point out again that neither the minister nor anyone else on the government side has refuted the argument that we are dealing with a special group of people. I have said this before and I will say it again. We are dealing with people who were born before the turn of the century. Seventy per cent of these people were born on the farms of Canada and had only grade three education. A few of them entered high school and fewer still entered the professions. They were born at a time when the population of this country was around the five million mark. They are people who went through two world wars. Many of these men enlisted, went overseas and fought in the first great war. I will not recapitulate their record, but it was a glorious achievement for a country the size of Canada to have half a million people under arms fighting for freedom and liberty.

• (7:10 p.m.)

In the year 1929 the world was plunged into one of the greatest depressions it has known, a depression which lasted till 1940 shortly after the second world war began. As I have pointed out to the minister previously, this was the prime earning period of their lives. These were their best years. Many of them managed to get a job which paid them a couple of dollars a day. Even professional men in those