

Old Age Security Act Amendment

Mr. Fulton: Is the minister telling us something the Minister of National Health and Welfare would not tell us? I am asking for an interpretation. Will the payments be made on January 1?

Mr. Nicholson: The minister is telling you that payments will be made as provided under new section 7 in the bill, and I do not think you need to be a lawyer to interpret that provision.

Mr. Fulton: This obviously means that the increases will not be received until March or April but the recipients will be taxed on January 1.

Mr. Chrétien: Is the hon. member serious when he says that the government will give with one hand and take with the other, when the sales tax increase is one per cent and an old age pensioner will receive \$360 a year more and in order to pay that back to the government, with the new one per cent sales tax, will be obliged to spend \$36,000?

Mr. Fulton: My point is this. We believe that those who need help should not be taxed in order to pay for that help. If hon. members opposite were sincere in their applause of the statement of the Minister of Finance last night and of the Minister of National Health and Welfare this evening when he said, cynically and hypocritically, that this is the only measure from which the poor will get more and the rich will get nothing, why do they tax the poor by imposing a tax on the articles which the aged people will have to buy? And what will the hon. member do about the people of his province of Quebec when they are subjected to double taxation?

Mr. Chrétien: The hon. member is supposed to know that it is not possible to do things in that way.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me it is an exercise in futility for the two hon. members who are indulging in this exchange to try to convince each other. They have made up their minds and are not listening any more. They do not want to be confused with the facts.

We in this party are keenly interested in getting the increase to the senior citizens of this country as quickly as possible and I suggest that the most expeditious way of doing so is by voting against the amendment and for third reading of the bill and doing it soon.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Fulton.]

Mr. Olson: I am really surprised that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) should move an amendment of this kind at the present stage.

An hon. Member: Pure hypocrisy.

Mr. Olson: We know that over the years he has tried to create an image of himself as the champion of the senior citizens whether they are recipients of old age security benefits or the recipients of civil service pensions.

Mr. Byrne: As long as they have a vote.

Mr. Olson: He is also one of the most experienced and knowledgeable members of the house with regard to the rules of procedure. Of all members, with the possible exception of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill), he ought to know that the effect of passing the amendment which he has proposed would be to kill the bill. He knows this.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: He knows it perfectly well, but he cannot desist.

Mr. Knowles: Does the hon. member not know from his own experience of procedure that there is a difference between an amendment of this kind on second reading and an amendment of this kind on third reading? He is applying a second reading argument to a third reading situation.

Mr. Olson: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre knows very well that the effect of carrying the amendment he has proposed would be to refer the bill back to the committee of the whole, the committee which considered it after second reading. He also knows very well that in committee of the whole he or any other member on this side of the house is prevented from moving the kind of amendment he has put forward. Nevertheless, as I was about to say, neither he nor the other members of his party can resist the temptation to try to make a little political hay at the expense of the old age pensioners even though they know very well that what they are asking cannot be done by them.

Let me give an illustration which will add more weight to what I am saying. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre tried to move an amendment in committee of the whole, the committee to which he now wishes to have this bill referred. As reported on page 11255 of *Hansard* he said:

Therefore, in order to give the minister an opportunity once again to consider removing the test