

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

**Mr. Martin:** I assure my hon. friend that time spent in the armed services is not calculated against—

**Mr. Gillis:** It was.

**Mr. Martin:** I shall look into it. If the hon. member will meet me tomorrow, we shall settle that in one minute.

**Mr. Gillis:** I just want to make sure that time spent out of the country is now not held against those who were in the services.

The other point the member for Vancouver-Quadra has raised is one that has been raised a good many times. That is the need, at least in the commonwealth countries, to make our social security legislation reciprocal. I believe that should be done. There are many people in Canada from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. When they reach 70 years of age most of them have nothing else to fall back on except the pension. However, if they leave the country that \$40 per month is discontinued. Plenty of these people would like to go back to the old country. The place where you finally like to rest is where you were born. That \$40 per month in purchasing power in the old country would mean much more than it would if spent in Canada by such a person in the last years of his life. I believe that some consideration should be given to bringing that pension to people in that category.

I certainly think it is time that the countries of Canada and the United States, which are so closely interlocked and are becoming closer and closer all the time economically, socially and in every other way, should permit people on old age security pensions to have their pensions when they take a trip down south and stay down there for holiday purposes or any other purposes. It is time they got around to doing something on a reciprocal basis between Canada and the United States. I should just like to say this with respect to the matter raised by the hon. member for Meadow Lake. It is a rather amazing story. The test of any legislation is in its administration. The hon. member endeavoured to relieve the director from any blame and tried to make it appear that the act was at fault, but I think what is happening there is a direct violation of the act. Any child of school age who is not in school cannot receive the family allowance.

**Mr. Harrison:** That does not apply if no school is available in the immediate area.

**Mr. Gillis:** That does not make any difference. There are no ifs, ands or buts in the legislation. Under the circumstances described

by the hon. member I do not think it is necessary to change the act. One director administered the act over a number of years in the only way it can be administered, and then a new man comes in with all the book training but with no practical experience of life that would acquaint him with the kind of situation the hon. member has described.

Do you know what I think is necessary? All that is necessary is for the minister to issue a directive re-establishing the system in force previously, and tell the new man to get ready to find himself a job up in the bush until he becomes acquainted with the facts of life.

**Mr. Knowles:** Or back in Halifax.

**Mr. Gillis:** I think if you trace his ancestors you will find he is not a Nova Scotian. I think you will find he comes from some other part of the world. It is a matter of having people in an administrative capacity who know something about the facts of life.

I suggest to the minister that before his estimates are completed he get up and tell the hon. member who raised this question that it is too bad, but that he was at the United Nations doing an important job, that he cannot be every place, which is understandable that while he is away there are far-flung corners in this country of ours that are liable to get out of joint, and that as soon as the estimates are completed he is going to exercise his authority to correct the situation that exists in that particular area.

The money should be paid retroactively. There are 15 months involved. I am looking forward with a great deal of interest to the minister making that kind of statement to the house in his very direct, sympathetic and efficient manner. He should say that this kind of situation cannot exist, and that he is going to clean it up. You know, Mr. Chairman, we have co-operated 100 per cent. We have sat here and just held on to ourselves day after day waiting to get to the minister's estimates.

**Mr. Martin:** My hon. friend co-operates in everything.

**Mr. Gillis:** There is another angle to the matter of family allowances, the question of the boy or girl going to school after reaching the age of 16. That is the time when in many families it becomes very expensive to get the boy or girl through high school or possibly university. Under the present regulations the family allowance is not payable to any boy or girl over 16, and I believe the time has come when the allowance should be made applicable to any boy or girl continuing his