

Old Age Pensions

There are on the order paper resolutions dealing with a contributory plan, but I am not proposing that at this stage, although I am strongly in favour of it. Hence those motions do not prevent me from moving this one, for its terms are distinctly different. There are also citations that make clear the right of a private member on going into supply to move amendments which do not directly involve the expenditure of money. In other words, they can be abstract motions, and in that sense they are quite acceptable. Citation 444 in the third edition makes this clear, and there are at least three Speakers' decisions, all of them in the third edition, one at page 537, one at page 519 and one at page 529, which confirm the right of a member to move a motion which, although it refers to something that might later involve the expenditure of money, is simply an expression of the opinion of the house, and does not directly involve the expenditure of money.

Therefore I have worded my amendment in keeping with all these provisions. I have worded it in keeping with the form for this occasion which is listed in Beauchesne's third edition, and I am fully satisfied that it is perfectly in order. Furthermore, I contend that this is the kind of motion that this house should have the right to vote upon. In fact I feel that a free vote should be permitted, so that the government may be informed as to what are the wishes and desires of members of all parties.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, confident that I am expressing a serious grievance; confident that I am expressing the wishes, not only of elder citizens throughout this country but of our Canadian people generally; confident that I am expressing the wishes of members of this house in all parties; confident that my motion is clearly within the rules, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Nicholson):

That all the words after the word "that" to the end of the question be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"this house desires to record its opinion that the government should give immediate consideration to the introduction of amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act with a view to making possible an increase in the amount of the pension, the lowering of the eligible age, and the elimination of the means test."

Mr. Speaker: I would call the attention of the hon. member to the fact that there are motions on the order paper which would permit a debate of this same question. I have given the hon. member an opportunity to express his grievance, but I regret that I cannot accept his amendment. I would call the attention of the house to citation 350 in Beauchesne's third edition, which reads:

It is out of order to move, as an amendment to another question, a motion standing on the order paper as a notice of motion.

Therefore I regret that I have to declare the amendment out of order.

Mr. Knowles: With deepest respect but confident that there is no motion on the order paper which is precisely in the terms of the one I have just moved, I must appeal Your Honour's ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Do I understand that the hon. member is appealing?

Mr. Knowles: Yes, if you please.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house that Mr. Speaker's decision be sustained? Those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: Those against will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

And some members having risen:

Mr. Speaker put the question as follows:

Mr. St. Laurent moved, seconded by Mr. Abbott, that I do now leave the Chair for the house to resolve itself into committee of supply. Mr. Knowles moved as an amendment, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, that all the words after the word "that" to the end of the question be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

This house desires to record its opinion that the government should give immediate consideration to the introduction of amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act with a view to making possible an increase in the amount of the pension, the lowering of the eligible age, and the elimination of the means test.

As there are before the house motions relating to the same subject, I declared the amendment out of order, basing my ruling on citation 350 of Beauchesne, third edition, which reads as follows:

It is out of order to move, as an amendment to another question, a motion standing on the order paper as a notice of motion.

From this ruling Mr. Knowles appeals.

The house divided on the question: Shall the Speaker's decision be sustained? And the decision of the Chair was sustained on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Abbott	Boivin
Arsenault	Bonnier
Baker	Boucher
Beaudoin	Bourget
Belzile	Bradette
Benidickson	Breithaupt
Bertrand (Laurier)	Brown
Bertrand (Prescott)	Brunelle
Bertrand (Terrebonne)	Chevrier
Blanchette	Clark