

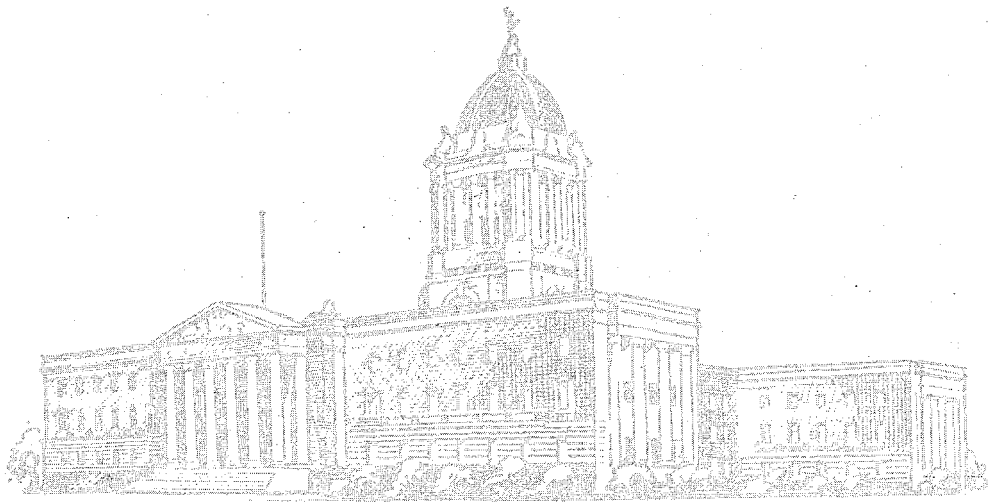


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



Vol. VII No. 14 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 1962. 5th Session, 26th Legislature

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. D. Watt	Reston, Man.
ASSINIBOIA	Geo. Wm. Johnson	212 Oakdean Blvd., St. James, Wpg.12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Robert Gordon Smellie	Russell, Man.
BRANDON	R. O. Lissaman	832 Eleventh St., Brandon, Man.
BROKENHEAD	E. R. Schreyer	2-1177 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg 16
BURROWS	J. M. Hawryluk	84 Furby St., Winnipeg 1
CARILLON	Edmond Prefontaine	St. Pierre, Man.
CHURCHILL	J. E. Ingebrigtsen	Churchill, Man.
CYPRESS	Mrs. Thelma Forbes	Rathwell, Man.
DAUPHIN	Hon. Stewart E. McLean Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
DUFFERIN	William Homer Hamilton	Sperling, Man.
ELMWOOD	S. Peters	225 Melrose Ave., Winnipeg 15
EMERSON	John P. Tanchak	Ridgeville, Man.
ETHELBERT PLAINS	M. N. Hryhorczuk, Q. C.	Ethelbert, Man.
FISHER	Peter Wagner	Fisher Branch, Man.
FLIN FLON	Hon. Charles H. Witney	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
FORT GARRY	Hon. Sterling R. Lyon, Q. C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
FORT ROUGE	Hon. Gurney Evans	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
GIMLI	Hon. George Johnson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
GLADSTONE	Nelson Shoemaker	Neepawa, Man.
HAMIOTA	B. P. Strickland	Hamiota, Man.
INKSTER	Morris A. Gray	141 Cathedral Ave., Winnipeg 4
KILDONAN	A. J. Reid	561 Trent Ave., E. Kild., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Oscar F. Bjornson	Lac du Bonnet, Man.
LAKESIDE	D. L. Campbell	326 Kelvin Blvd., Winnipeg 29
LA VERENDRYE	Stan Roberts	Niverville, Man.
LOGAN	Lemuel Harris	1109 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Hon. Walter Weir	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Harry P. Shewman	Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Oble Balzley	185 Maplewood Ave., Winnipeg 13.
PEMBINA	Mrs. Carolyne Morrison	Manitou, Man.
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Hon. John Aaron Christianson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Russell Paulley	435 Yale Ave. W., Transcona 25, Man.
RHINELAND	J. M. Froese	Winkler, Man.
RIVER HEIGHTS	W. B. Scarth, Q. C.	407 Queenston St., Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	Keith Alexander	Roblin, Man.
ROCK LAKE	Hon. Abram W. Harrison	Holmfeld, Man.
ROCKWOOD-IBERVILLE	Hon. George Hutton	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	J. E. Jeannotte	Meadow Portage, Man.
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent Desjardins	138 Dollard Blvd., St. Boniface 6, Man.
ST. GEORGE	Elman Guttormson	Lundar, Man.
ST. JAMES	D. M. Stanes	381 Guldford St., St. James, Wpg.12
ST. JOHN'S	David Orlikow	179 Montrose St., Winnipeg 9
ST. MATTHEWS	W. G. Martin	924 Palmerston Ave., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	Fred Groves	3 Kingston Row, St. Vital, Wpg. 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.
SELKIRK	T. P. Hillhouse, Q.C.	Dominion Bank Bldg., Selkirk, Man.
SEVEN OAKS	Arthur E. Wright	4 Lord Glenn Apts., 1944 Main St., Wpg. 17
SOURIS-LANSDOWNE	M. E. McKellar	Nesbitt, Man.
SPRINGFIELD	Fred T. Klym	Beausejour, Man.
SWAN RIVER	A. H. Corbett	Swan River, Man.
THE PAS	Hon. J. B. Carroll	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TURTLE MOUNTAIN	E. I. Dow	Bolssevain, Man.
VIRDEN	Hon. John Thompson, Q. C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WELLINGTON	Richard Seaborn	594 Arlington St., Winnipeg 10
WINNIPEG CENTRE	James Cowan Q. C.	512 Avenue Bldg., Winnipeg 2
WOLSELEY	Hon. Duff Roblin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Thursday, March 1st, 1962.

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions
Reading and Receiving Petitions

MR. CLERK: The petition of Capital Funds (IAC) Limited, Praying for the passing of An Act to authorize the said Company to carry on business in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting reports by Standing and Special Committees.
Notice of Motions
Introduction of Bills

Before the Orders of the Day, I should like to introduce to the Assembly the 4-H Club from Treherne. We have with us this afternoon some 40 farm boys under the leadership of Danny De Paw and Jerry Margnett. I might say that this is only the second year of the operation of this club and they have made much progress in their two years of existence. We welcome them this afternoon to our Legislature and we hope that their stay may be instructive and pleasant, and they may see fit in some future time to return again and see us--the future farmers of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. DAVID ORLIKOW (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Welfare. Yesterday I asked him whether it was possible that some people staying in institutions--old age pensioners staying in institutions were still only receiving \$5.00 a month for their personal needs, and the Minister said that under the regulations this was not possible. Now I checked this morning just before I came in here, and at the Holy Family Home, which is the old Children's hospital in my constituency, the Superintendent told me that the people are only receiving \$5.00 a month for their personal requirements. I wonder if the Minister could make enquiries and possibly bring in an amended statement as to what the situation actually is for people in institutions.

HON. J. A. CHRISTIANSON (Minister of Public Welfare)(Portage la Prairie): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we'll be very glad to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for the Day.

MR. S. PETERS (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders for the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. I wonder if he could tell us when he is going to convene the Minimum Wage Board.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Labour)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid that I can't give him that exact information. We have called for nominees to this board. Once they are received they will be considered and the board will be called into operation again.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Conservation. A few days ago I asked the Honourable the Minister if it would be possible for him to furnish the members of the House with copies of the additional report regarding water resources. I understood him to say that he would make those available. Realizing that we're coming very close to the Honourable Minister's estimates, I'd appreciate it if we could have those reports fairly soon.

HON. GEORGE HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture)(Rockwood-Iberville): Mr. Speaker, I can have them for him tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for the Day.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, before you proceed with the Orders of the Day, I should like to lay on the table of the House the report of the Public Utilities Board for the year ended December 31st, 1961. I may say that this one copy came into my hands today pursuant to statute. Other copies of it for the members of the House are presently being prepared and will be distributed when available.

The second is a nil report of the Minister of Public Utilities pursuant to Section 16 of The Greater Winnipeg Gas Distribution Act, 1959. This is for the year ended December 31st, 1961.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to lay on the table of the House a nil return--the Annual Report of The Watershed Conservation Districts Act for the year ended March 31st, 1961; and The Water Rights Act Annual Report--nil--for the year ended March 31st, 1961; and a return to an Order of the House on the motion by the Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier)(Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I notice that the first item on the Orders is the resumed debate on the Constitution Amendment about Old Age Pensions. I understand that members are not prepared to proceed with that immediately so I will call the Second Order, namely, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply, which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has the adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House for allowing the adjournment yesterday on this motion. We wanted more time to be able to study the estimates. We had received them just the night before, quite late, and our group felt that we should have more time to be able to go into them. This, I think, has been the practice in the past. I appreciate the fact that the House did give us this adjournment so that we were able to do this. Today, we are prepared to proceed with the estimates. Before doing so, however, I would like to say a few words of a general nature.

I want, first of all, to associate myself with the comments of my colleague the Member for St. George in reference to his statement yesterday with regard to the Selkirk Settlers. While I did not specifically adjourn that particular item, I do want to refer to it. I think his comments were very fitting. One of the matters which we Canadians have to do is think more of our own historical background and create, or recreate our history to make sure that those of us who are here now, and our children, will remember and have pride in the development of our province. I have a particular attachment I suppose, in a way, to the Selkirk Settlers. Last fall, along with the Honourable the Attorney-General and the Leader of one of the National Parties, I had the pleasure of addressing the St. Andrew's Society. I suppose, as is customary for people undertaking that task, I searched carefully through my background to find some association with the Scots. Being unable to play the bagpipes like the First Minister, I searched in other directions and was fortunate to find that my wife was a descendent from the Selkirk Settlers, so I can feel some very definite family attachment to this particular matter. So I would strongly recommend to the government that they do take action in this field and that we should at this stage establish a monument, or a park, and do something tangible in this respect. I notice that one of the newspapers recently was referring to the piece of ground across from the buildings here and suggesting that it should be called the Lord Selkirk Park. I think this would be worthy of consideration by the government. I think possibly, also, as the Minister of Industry & Commerce mentioned, up along the banks of the Red River, where the settlement was first made, that we could proceed to do something there as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn briefly to the estimates themselves. I notice that the government has supplied us with a separate sheet again this year listing the staff. I would strongly recommend to them that instead of doing this on a separate sheet, that they go back to the former practice which was to put it right in the estimates themselves. This had always been done, and not only did we have the figure for the current year, but the figure for the past year was there. This isn't a very serious item, however, it does make it easier for members when they are discussing estimates to see what changes the government is proposing in the way of staff in these various departments. It seems to me that having to have a separate listing is only more complication when it could be done on the basis of the one.

Referring to the figures in the estimates themselves, I don't propose at this stage to go into detailed examination. I just want to refer to two general figures, and the one is the increase in the unconditional grants. Now we'll have full discussion when we come to that one. I'm pleased to see the increase, but I want to repeat the statement I made on the Throne Speech Debate that this, I hope, is an increase in the per capita grant and not simply an adjustment figures for changes in population. This question of the Realty Tax, the load being borne by the lands and buildings, is one of the most serious ones facing our municipalities right now. Their

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) responsibilities have been increasing and, in my opinion, the load has reached its limit. It's high time that we have a redistribution of the taxation sources and of income, and certainly we will look forward to seeing, in that direction, an increase in the grants to the municipalities on a per capita basis and not just on an adjustment basis.

I note, too, that on the same page there is no allotment whatever for Metro. It seems to me that in view of the fact that this government has turned down the Blake-Goldenberg Report, that I was expecting that they would have some alternative suggestions to offer in the case of Metro. I don't see any alternative suggestions in these estimates. It seems to me that in conjunction with an increase to the overall municipalities in this province that they should have considered this as well. I'm certainly not suggesting that more should be given to one local level of government, but this is the time, in my opinion, for a general increase to all of them. I'm rather surprised that we have heard as yet nothing from the government in the way of an alternative to the financial problems facing the Metropolitan Government which they created. Having turned down the Blake-Goldenberg, I think it is their responsibility to offer an alternative at this time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention on this debate, which is actually a general debate in the same way as the budget, to refer to some of the statements that have been made previously in this House by the First Minister himself; by the Minister of Health on other subjects; and by the member from Churchill on that situation; but I think I will leave these until we come along to the estimates themselves because I want to refer this afternoon to a matter which I consider most urgent and most important, and where I simply cannot understand the position that this Government has taken. I'm referring, Mr. Speaker, to the proposed increase in old age pensions that has been suggested by Ottawa and which is now proceeding to increase from \$55 to \$65.

Mr. Speaker, we've heard a great deal from my honourable friends across the way about the assistance that they were going to give to the old age pensioners in this province. I have here before me one of the Information Bulletins, back in January of 1960, at which time the Minister was proclaiming some of the sections of The Social Welfare Act. It starts off by saying that the act went into effect February 1st and will provide extra cash, as need dictates, to an estimated 16,000 of the province's senior citizens. We all remember, those of us who have been in the House, when the Minister spoke in glowing terms about all he was going to do for the needy old age pensioners in this province. This is one of his great cries and I commend him for it. My honourable friend the First Minister the other night, when giving us a lecture on the duties of the opposition--a subject on which we will have more to say as the session goes on--at that time when he was lecturing us, he said, "they didn't do anything for the old age pensioners when they were in office. They didn't introduce The Social Allowances Act which provides--I think the payments average out at \$20. per case to the people who are being served under this act". Making a great case again about the assistance that he was providing for the needy old age pensioners in the Province. And now, Mr. Speaker, what do we find? The Federal Government is increasing the old age pension by \$10.00, and what does this government do? It robs a good number of the old age pensioners in this province of that very \$10.00. Instead of seeing to it that this goes to the individual, it says: "no, we will reduce our cash allowances by that amount". Who says that, Mr. Speaker? None other than my friend the Minister of Health.

Just the other day in answering a question from one of the members of this side of the House, he said, and I quote from Hansard; "Now the pensions have risen and it is quite true that where we are making cash allowances to old age assistance people, to people who are on the old age security pension, that the cash allowance under The Social Allowances Act may be reduced somewhat". By his own statement--the cash allowances. What about other people, Mr. Speaker, who are in some of the institutions in this province? What are my honourable friends doing there? Well I am quoting now from a report in the newspaper, Free Press, of February 27th: "The Lions' Residence rates"--that is where some of the old age pensioners are living--"is \$75"--that's for rental--"and until the recent pension raise, the Provincial Government has paid \$30 of this in social assistance. Following Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announcement of the raise, Mr. Evans, who is the superintendent of the agency, said he received a letter from the Provincial Department of Welfare stating that it's share of the

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) pensioners care would henceforth would only be \$20". And he's quoted then as saying: "I asked him if we could at least let them have another \$2. 00 of the increase because the cost of living for even their few personal expenses has gone up", he said, "but the request was denied".

Mr. Speaker, how can this government, how can the First Minister get up and brag about all they're doing for the old age pensioners. Here the Federal Government comes along, provides an increase of \$10. 00 because in their wisdom they feel that this is needed, and if they didn't feel it was needed surely they wouldn't be doing it, but seeing that it is needed, they proceed to do this. . And what do, my honourable friends across the way do? They take it right out of the old age pensioner's pocket and they reduce their own contribution--and these are the statements of my honourable friend the Minister of Health himself--of Welfare, I am sorry. Mr. Speaker, this is a straight case of the Federal Government in Ottawa putting \$10. 00 into the pockets of the old age pensioners, and there immediately on the other side this government, that proclaims itself to be so interested in their welfare, taking it right out. This is a straight case of my honourable friends across the way lining their own pockets at the expense of the old age pensioners of this province.--(interjection)--Fine--say rubbish if you want--the facts are by the statements of the Minister himself and the statements in the newspaper. My honourable friends are proceeding not to pay to some of the people who are presently on social assistance the extra \$10. 00 that the Federal Government has provided. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this government change that policy immediately. This situation should not endure any further. If the Federal Government is providing an extra \$10. 00, I say it should go directly to the old age pensioners. My honourable friends should make this change now and not wait any further.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fair that some misconceptions that may have been raised by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition in his, I think rather in-temperate attack against our social allowances program, should be answered before they get too far from these walls. He doesn't seem to have a very complete grasp of our social allowances program or of the mechanism whereby the various pension schemes are administered in this province. He intimates, in fact, that because Ottawa has raised the pensions of the old age--in the old age assistance category, in the blind persons pension, in the disability allowance pension and in the old age security pension, that the province will wind up the net winner because we are reducing our social allowances grants, which it has been pointed out average \$20 per case, by an equal amount. Well I had intended to go into this matter rather fully when my own estimates come up, but I think I should just review it for you very briefly. The old age assistance program, the blind persons' pension program and the disability pension program are shared programs with the Federal Government, and when the Federal Government said they were going to raise pensions, they raised their share and we immediately raised our share by an equal amount. In other words, the Federal Government put up \$5. 00 of that \$10. 00 increase and we put up \$5. 00.

Now in the case of the old age security pension, the one that is paid to all people over 70 years of age, the Federal Government paid the total \$10. 00. We also meet the need of all the people in these categories where such need exists. We have not changed our regulations substantially since the change in the pensions. We have made some minor changes and amendments which will cost us a little more money; which will make the program a little more expensive; but of a relatively minor nature and they had to do with the allowances that could be paid for rent. They were not a change in policy but merely an acceptance of the fact that inadvertently some people were not being treated quite as fairly as other people and the regulations were straightened out in that regard. Now I am sorry if I misled the House the other day, and I am sure I did when I was talking about the \$10. 00 for personal needs. The \$10. 00 is permitted for a person for personal needs when they are living alone. When they are living in institutions the rate is \$5. 00, or more, at the discretion of the director, and we have not as yet increased this amount. So the point that the member for St. John's brought up is quite correct. I am sorry and I apologize to the House for having made this misinterpretation the other day.

Now to go back to the pensions again. There are more people on old age assistance, on blind persons and on DA--or I should put it another way. Not all the people on these programs are also receiving extra cash allowances--not nearly all of them--so when we increase the pensions to these people, and the numbers will increase because the income limit has been

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) raised substantially, we can't take it all back because we aren't giving it to start with. The matter of fact is that our total outlay under this program will increase by some \$400,000. Even when you take into account the cost-sharing in the social allowances program, and the saving there, the total cost to the Province of Manitoba is some \$200,000 a year more. Now the member tried to make the case that we were, in effect, stealing from the old age pensioner. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. I would invite him to look at the estimates; to look at the increase in the amount of money to be provided in the estimates of the Department of Welfare, and particularly the amount of money to be provided under social allowances. Mr. Speaker, if he doesn't think that we're doing a pretty good job for the old people and the needy people in the Province of Manitoba, there isn't much that I can say to change his mind.

Now there's one other point that I haven't mentioned. He quoted the Honourable Minister of Health as having said in days gone by that this would provide extra cash for 16,000 senior citizens in Manitoba. Well I think that on the basis of our Medicare program which, while not providing cash, provides the equivalent in services where they require it, and the total figure is something beyond 20,000 now. I think that if he will examine those facts he will find that we are accepting our responsibility and we are meeting needs as the Minister of Health the Honourable Member from Gimli said two years ago.

MR. MOLGAT: Will you permit a question? Did he not say the other day in this House that now that the pensions have risen, there would be a reduction in the cash allowance under The Social Allowances Act?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: He said that and it's quite true. In cases where we are paying cash allowances in excess of \$10.00 a month, those people will be losing the \$10.00 that they are presently receiving under social allowances. Their total payment will not go up, but I would like to point out to him that in arriving at this figure--I'm glad you brought this up--in arriving at this figure of \$20, it doesn't mean that everybody gets \$20. Some of them get \$20; some of them get \$3.00; some of them get \$5; 6, 7, 8, 9; some of them only get a Medicare card. There are others who get an awful lot more. I had some files drawn the other day just so that I might have them for estimates. I happen to have one here and this person receives \$80 a month--(interjection)--That's quite true, and some get no money and only a Medicare card--only a Medicare card. But, Mr. Speaker, I'd suggest that this is a substantial item and the fact is that only those people who are receiving in excess of \$10.00 a month will not receive an increase in their pensions. All those who receive less than this amount will be getting the full increase and they will be left with their Medicare card. So, Mr. Speaker, he may try as he likes, but he'll never be able to prove that this government is not accepting its responsibility in meeting need.

MR. MOLGAT: I want to ask the minister a further question. It is correct that you will be taking this \$10 increase from certain of the pensioners in this province, is it not?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well I can only say again, Mr. Speaker, I'm a little--(interjection)--we are continuing, Mr. Speaker, to do the things we said we would do under our social allowances program, and that is to meet need. These people will be receiving exactly the same amount of money. There'll be no reduction.

MR. MOLGAT: Is it also correct that in the cases where the province has been paying part of the rent for old age pensioners living in various institutions that now with the increase the province will reduce the amount of the rent it has been paying?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's a reasonably fair statement, but the total amount of money which the pensioners are receiving remains the same.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, could I ask a question to the Minister? I am sorry I was out for a few minutes but I didn't know this was coming up. Is it true, therefore, that there are many people in institutions to whom this increase of \$10.00 a month announced by the Federal and Provincial Governments is, in fact, only a bookkeeping item, that they will receive not one cent more than they have been receiving up till now?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the honourable member wasn't in his chair, but I don't really think there is any point in belabouring this issue. The gentlemen opposite can do their best to make us out to be mean, hard-hearted old fellows as much as they like, but the fact remains, Sir, that we are and we will continue to meet needs. We

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) have, in fact, been making large payments to these people who are in institutions.--(interjection)--We're getting, yes indeed we are, we're getting some help from the Federal Government. The figures for the aged in institutions is something like \$2 million. There is 1,840 people presently in institutions and the average rate being paid is \$110 a month. Now we pay the difference between what the individual has and what is required. Now I would like to ask the honourable members, in view of the rather large figures in the Estimates, if they suggest we should in fact increase all these payments. Now we would like to, there's no question about that, but we have a responsibility. We must not only meet need, but we must exercise the responsibility in the spending of the money. We can't hand it out in a dilatory manner in one place without some other portion or some other part of the economy suffering. We think, Mr. Speaker, that we are accepting our responsibility and discharging our duty in this regard.

MR. M. A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very serious matter. We either relax the rules and let's finish it today, or probably do it another time. Now No. 1. Is he speaking on behalf of those under the Ministers or all the pensioners? That's number one. No. 2. What right has the government to the \$10 which is now granted by the federal administration--yes, part of it--those under the ministers, of course, comes under the province. Now No. 3. The increase was for the purpose that the public and the government felt it was not sufficient. Now if you are taking away from them, in most cases, then where is your Christmas present? I think that this is a very, very serious important matter. Either give us an opportunity to break the rules and ask questions as often as we like, or let us leave it for another time.

MR. M. N. HRYHORCZUK, Q.C. (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like some clarification from the Minister. He has given us part of the answer, but I don't think we've got it all. Now as I understand it, when you have an old age pensioner, or a security pensioner, or a disabled pensioner, or a blind pensioner in an institution, and the cost of maintenance is say the \$110 figure that the Minister pointed out here just a few moments ago. Before the increase was made in the pensions, \$50 towards the \$110 came out of the pensioner's cheque--correct? Five dollars was left for his personal requirements--right? After the pension was increased by \$10, here is what happened. Where previously this government contributed \$60 towards the cost of maintenance, there is \$60.00 plus the pensioner's \$50.00 made it \$110, now this government does no longer contribute the \$60 but it contributes \$50 and the \$10 additional pension has gone towards the cost of maintenance. Now the point is this, Mr. Speaker, if this information is correct--and I hear no objections to it so I must be correct--the point is this, that where we have shared programs, that is on a 50/50 basis, the Federal Government contributes \$5 and the Provincial Government contributes \$5, but you are not deducting only \$5 for this maintenance you're deducting the \$5 contribution made by the Federal Government. So, in actuality, you are taking the government contribution of \$5 and using it in place of your social assistance, that's where the pensions are shared; but under old age security, you're actually taking the \$10 that are contributed by the Federal Government and using it where previously the social assistance, the provincial social assistance was making the payment. So our leader is correct, you're using federal funds to reduce your own costs by the amount of those contributions. Thank you.

MR. R. PAULLEY (Leader of the NDP)(Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I think I should like to ask a question or two in connection with this. I find it most interesting. I haven't had an opportunity of perusing completely the reports, which the Minister was so kind enough to send me by his stenographer after we rose yesterday, of the Department of Welfare, but I have had some short time to consider it. Now it appears to me that the average pension in respect of old age assistance of last year amounted to \$51--odd--\$51.30; Blind persons' allowances \$53.07; and so on. Now I presume that this is the amount averaging out towards the former \$55.00 a month complete pension. Now then, I would like to ask the Minister, and I think possibly this would clarify the matter under discussion at the present time, previously we had a ceiling, if I remember correctly of \$980. in respect of a single person and it was \$1,670 in respect of a married couple, before they were eligible for consideration. If they were over the ceiling then they weren't eligible for consideration for the basic old age assistance pension. Then, in addition, after they had become eligible for some pension, based on these figures, they were

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) entitled to--give the former Minister of Welfare, use his statement--a needs test rather than a means test. --(Interjection)--Pardon?

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health)(Gimli): You'll get down to it in a few minutes.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes. But on the basis of so-called need, another figure of the contribution was arrived at. Now then, has the basic minimum--or maximum rather, not minimum--been raised in respect of total income for the persons concerned before they become entitled to the full amount of old age assistance. Now it would appear to me that if they have been raised and people are being reduced from the overall amount that they formerly received, then they are being deprived of some personal increase in comforts or cash. I would like to hear from the Minister--he may have mentioned it the other day, I don't recall--as to what the present maximum of income are in respect of applications for old age assistance. I think this has a bearing on the overall picture. It does seem to me that on the surface that those in receipt of social allowance--(interjection)--I beg your pardon? I am talking into the microphone. Those in receipt of social assistance, and also those on old age security in receipt of social allowance, are not receiving an across-the-board \$10 increase due to the figures that are used for computing what is so-called need. Now if those figures haven't been increased substantially or accordingly, then it is understandable that they will not be receiving the \$10 increase. I don't know if I have added to the confusion or not, but I would like to have the new figures of the maximum allowable income for the computation of the now \$65 pension; and also, whether the basis of arriving at a maximum amount or a minimum amount of need for a single and married couple before they received additional social allowance, where that started again because of the increase federally of the \$10. in respect of old age security and jointly with the old age assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: I might point out we're on a debating here and we're almost following the procedure that we do in the committee where members get up and speak and sit down and get up again. They don't have that right to do that in the House. Also, the Honourable Minister is continually asked questions and he only has the right to speak once on this question.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I think I only asked a question--I don't think I have spoken on this. I think that between the statements which the Minister--the corrected statements which the Minister gave today and the summary which the member for Ethelbert-Plains gave, which I think is pretty correct, I think the picture which we are now getting is pretty clear, and that is, that while the government is correct, the Minister is correct, that what they are doing is legally proper, that in fact what is happening, Mr. Speaker, is that as far as I am concerned I can honestly say I have never had the number of complaints and the number of 'phone calls which I have had the last few days on this issue. I don't know if I am alone in this but I make this as a statement of fact, that I have never had on any single issue the calls which I have had on this matter; and that the people concerned, and there are a large number of people who are in the institutions--I don't question the Minister when he says that the Province of Manitoba is paying out a very substantial amount of money for the assistance to people who are in institutions, but they were doing that last year.

Now the Federal Government has announced an increase of \$10 a month for people receiving old age assistance, for people receiving old age pensions, people in receipt of blind pensions, and so on. Now I want to take Mr. Diefenbaker's word for it. He didn't do it because 1962 happens to be an election year--not at all--he did it because the needs have increased. He did it because the cost of living has gone up, and so these people took Mr. Diefenbaker and this government at their word. They were going to see something. They were going to see an increase which they could see, something which would help them meet their needs better, because their needs have gone up too. While in fact, Mr. Speaker, we now have the fact. In fact, as far as the person in the institution is concerned, they are not getting a five-cent piece more. What the Honourable Member for Ethelbert-Plains said today, and what I said when I raised the question two days ago is exactly correct. If there is any saving it is to the Province of Manitoba in its social allowance program. I want to tell the Minister and the First Minister and the members of the government, if they don't know it yet, that these people feel that the matter has been misrepresented. I want to use parliamentary language, but they feel that they're not getting a fair deal. They feel that they're not getting what the

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) Federal Government and this government said they were entitled to.

Now having said that I just want to say one more thing, Mr. Speaker. We know, and everybody knows, that costs are up. We know, for example, that the Blind Institute raised their rates for staying in their residence by \$10 a month. I'm not questioning that, the costs are up. But the costs to the people are up too, and the magnificent amount, that very generous amount we leave them, which two days ago the Minister said was \$10 and today he's amended it to say that in some cases it's \$5, that tremendous amount with which they're left to buy shaving cream and toothpaste and razor blades and tobacco and all the rest of the things. The cost of those things have gone up too, and they have to meet those costs out of that tremendous amount which we leave them--\$10 or \$5. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I'm disappointed in this government--I really am. I thought the First Minister had more compassion than he seems to have on this matter. While our costs are up, I think it would have been quite a nice gesture, Mr. Speaker, if this government had said: "Well, it's true that for the people in the institutions we're already paying \$20 or \$30 or \$40"--now the Minister tells us \$50 a month--"to keep these people in the institutions, but the Federal Government is paying \$10 a month more to these people, or \$5 in some cases, and we share it, so we won't take it all, we'll leave them with a couple of dollars. We'll leave them with \$2 or \$3 on top of the ten or the five they had before". I want to say, Mr. Speaker, and I'm going to sit down, that I for one, and I think I speak for all the people concerned, am disappointed at the decision, I think a penny-pinching decision, made by this government.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago the Honourable the Leader of this House told the members on this side of the House--gave them a lesson on the duties of opposition--and I think that today's an example that the Opposition is really doing their work. I think it is helping the Minister--he hasn't been there very long--and I think it is a good thing to help him, to tell him from this side of the House that the people that are kept in these homes receive only half of what he thought just a few days ago they were receiving. As the member from St. John's said, it's not \$10 but \$5 a day, and it was corrected by the Minister himself--a month. Now that might be the reason why they didn't change their system. When they took this money, maybe it was thought that Mr. Diefenbaker was giving a larger grant to the Province of Manitoba. This might be why we're satisfied with this new arrangement with the Premier of the country. But if this is a grant, we want to know. Another thing that the Honourable Minister should check when he reads Hansard tomorrow, he made a statement, if I'm correct, a while ago that the government had not changed anything; that the pensions were exactly the same. Well maybe it's correct. If that's true--

MR. CHRISTIANSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I said that the regulations had not been changed under The Social Allowances Act.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well then, isn't it a fact also that the Minister said that the pension had not been increased; neither decreased. Is that right? Wasn't that something that was said just a while ago in the House? Well, as I said, he can check that. This is the way I understood, that the pension had not been increased, or the pension had not been decreased. But if the Federal Government is sending \$10 to help a person, the government feels that that's not enough, and if the Provincial Government is taking that \$10, which they have no right to take because it's not theirs to take, this was sent to an individual, therefore, they are in fact reducing--there is actually in fact a reduction of \$10 in the pensions that are given the people in Manitoba now. So I think what we've got to realize, is this a pension given by the Federal Government to each individual or is that a grant for welfare or for some other reason that the Provincial Government wants to do? I think that we are entitled to an answer on this. I think that if the government didn't realize that the people were only getting \$5, that the government thought that they were getting \$10--maybe they felt it was enough--that they better look into their policy and maybe have a study of this system of trying to give this \$10 where it should go--give it back to the individual.

MR. ROBERT GORDON SMELLIE (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that in this debate we've had some rather fuzzy thinking on the part of some of the members of this House. I don't know whether I can assist this process a great deal or not, the process of prognosis that the Honourable Minister of Health refers to seems to be a very slow process. In

(Mr. Smellie, cont'd.) the first place, Mr. Speaker, a social allowance is not a divine right. This Social Allowances Act was passed in the hope that through this government action we might meet need where it was found in certain areas. I think The Social Allowances Act has done a great deal to meet need where it is found. The point, Mr. Speaker, is that this need was being met long before the Federal Government, in their wisdom, made this \$10 across-the-board increase in certain pensions. The \$10 increase across-the-board didn't change the need. You can't tell me that the need of these individuals who are on social allowances changed \$10 a month between January and February. In January their needs were being met under The Social Allowances Act, and their needs are still being met between the combination of their pension and The Social Allowances Act. Their total needs under this program are assessed, and in that area between what their pensions allow and what their needs are, the slack is taken up under the social allowances program. If the allowances continued at exactly the same rate they were before the \$10 across-the-board increase, some of these people would, in effect, receive \$10 more than their total need is at the present time.

There has also been some misstatement of fact, Mr. Speaker, by some of the honourable members in this debate. The Honourable Member from Ethelbert-Plains suggested that a person in an institution receiving a pension prior to the increase of \$55 was paying \$50 towards the cost of his care and the pensioner received \$5 of that pension. This is not correct. This is not correct, Mr. Speaker. The whole of his \$55 went towards the cost of his care, and this \$5 pocket money that the man received actually came to him through Social Allowances. The fact, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a \$10 across-the-board increase in certain pensions has not changed the need, merely because of that increase, of the persons who were drawing social allowances. This government, Mr. Speaker, will continue to meet that need where it is found under The Social Allowances Act as we have in the past.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Will the honourable member permit a question?

MR. SMELLIE: Sure, I'd like to.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Does the honourable member think that it is fair that the \$10 contributed by the Federal Government towards increases in old age security pensions should go to the Treasury of the Province of Manitoba? --(interjection)--It sure does.

MR. SMELLIE: I don't think it would be fair, but it does not in fact do that. One other point here in answer to this question, Mr. Speaker, is that the fact that the pensions have gone up is not the whole story. When the pensions went up, also the allowable income of the pensioner went up; and because that allowable income has gone up, in many cases the increase in the pension has been more than \$10 a month because of the allowable ceiling, and those persons who were not receiving the full pension before because they had income over the permissible ceiling, many of them are now receiving more than a \$10 increase in pension. The net effect of this \$10 across-the-board increase and the increase in allowable income ceilings has cost the Province of Manitoba money. We are not saving money by the reduction in certain areas of Social Allowances.

MR. GRAY: the \$5 which he makes and the institutions receive was long, long before the social legislation came into being.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk): ask a question? I think the only basis upon which we can accept the argument advanced by the government side of this House is on the assumption that the increase in old age pension was granted for political expediency. I cannot accept that premise. I accept the premise that the increase in old age pensions was granted because the \$55 a month which was being paid to pensioners was inadequate. In other words, the base of the pension had to be raised right across-the-board. Now once you accept that premise, Mr. Speaker, I submit that you must try to retain the relative position between the basic pensions and those who are in receipt of social allowance, and that the only way that you could retain that relative position in the same degree of relativity as it was before is by not taking any money away from those recipients of social allowance, otherwise you are discriminating against them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

Mr. Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, now that we have a little elbow room, now that we can really get to grips with this interesting topic that's been raised, some of us on this side would like to say something, who previously were barred from doing so by the rules of debate. I think there are others beside myself that would like to join in this debate and I want to give them that opportunity. I just want to start the discussion this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, by saying that we will be proceeding with the following order of business after we have disposed of the interesting topic that is occupying our minds at the moment. We'll be dealing with Legislation, Executive Council, Treasury, Provincial Secretary. After that, and this is the change, we will be proceeding to Industry & Commerce. I shall give members further notice as we proceed through the estimates as to what items will be called. The first four items: Legislation, Executive Council, Treasury, Provincial Secretary. That's all in order, then we go down to Industry and Commerce. Now let's get back to this question of pensions.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, are we going into the Department of Health immediately then?

MR. ROBLIN: We're going to talk about pensions for awhile.

MR. MOLGAT: Well on the Department of Health then I presume. That's fine with us--or Welfare. If we're going into Welfare that suits us fine.

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity of saying a few words on all the allegations--

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. CAMPBELL: What item are we discussing? What item has Mr. Chairman called?

MR. ROBLIN: Well, Sir, I think we'd better--we can certainly proceed with the first item, and when we are talking about indemnities, the Minister of Health can justify how he earns his indemnity on the subject of pensions.--(interjection)--We couldn't speak.

MR. MOLGAT: Why not?

MR. ROBLIN: Because I had already spoken; you know why not.

A MEMBER: Well, he's going to speak.

MR. PAULLEY: I just--Mr. Chairman, if I may, let's be fair about this. It seems our desire on this side to have a debate on it, let's have it, irrespective of the departments.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, as far as I am concerned I'll raise no objection to that, if it's understood that we can do the same thing at any other time. But if we're going to be held down to discussing, as the rules say, the item under consideration, then we're not going to allow it to be done one way one time and another, another. The rule is that in the Committee of Supply that discussion shall be relative to the matter before us, and if it's going to be changed, then we'll change it any time we want to on this side of the House.

MR. ROBLIN: the examination of the estimates and the subject is before us. We're not into the individual items.

MR. MOLGAT: to discuss this. We can only discuss something once the chairman calls an item. Once the chairman calls an item we can discuss it. Now I want to make it very clear. We're quite prepared to continue this discussion on pensions, quite prepared to continue it, but on the understanding if you're going to do it on a general item, then we can discuss any general matters on any item. Well then, go into the Department of Health. Call the first item in Department of Health--minister's salary--or Welfare--and we can have all the discussion that you want.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House just finished telling us that first of all we would start with Legislation and so on, that he would change this later on. Now if we're going to start with Legislation, let's start. If not, let's know what department we're with.

MR. ROBLIN: I think I'd better put the matter to the committee in this way; that provided we have the unanimous consent of the committee, we would like to continue this discussion on the matter of Welfare--on the matter of pensions that has been raised. If we do not have the unanimous consent, because I must agree with those who have said that this does not conform to the usual procedure in the committee, I must agree with that, that if we do not have the unanimous consent then we'll proceed in dealing with the items in the estimates. But if we have unanimous consent, then I think we might spare some of our time this afternoon to continue this discussion, because there are a number of points in it which I think perhaps could well be

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) cleared up at the present time. I would like to say that we must regard this, if we do agree to it, as a special occasion, not constituting a precedent and which it can only be repeated again if we have unanimous consent.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, as far as our group is concerned we are quite prepared to give the unanimous consent in this case. I would only say to the government that on other occasions when there is something we want to discuss, that we'll expect their co-operation in it as well. My honourable friend the other day broke the rules. He spoke for an hour and a half. We didn't object, now I want reciprocal treatment.

MR. ROBLIN: agree that the rules were broken the other day.

MR. MOLGAT: But they were.

MR. ROBLIN: They were broken by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye because my honourable friend had spoken for 48 minutes when introducing his amendment, and therefore my honourable friend—

A MEMBER: And the Minister of Agriculture had spoken for about an hour and a half.

MR. ROBLIN: All right. I think it would be a good idea if the 40 rule was more strictly enforced and I think that's something we should look at. But on this particular matter I am only saying that we can only proceed with this if we have unanimous consent.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, as far as the group I lead is concerned, we're prepared to give, as far as my group is concerned, the consent without reservations at all. If any other occasion arises where it may be desirable to discuss matters out of order, then we'll judge our actions at that particular time.

MR. A. H. CORBETT (Swan River): Mr. Chairman, I think it's time that a genuine old age pensioner gets up and says something. When you reach the old age pension you're supposed to be somewhat senile in your remarks, but after listening to some of the senile arguments presented by the opposition and others today, I begin to think that maybe I'm not as senile as they are, but the Honourable Member for Russell explained this thing clearly--we should be no more debated.

MR. MOLGAT: What is the honourable member speaking on?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we agreed?

MR. CORBETT: We had unanimous consent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order! Are we unanimously agreed that this matter of pensions can be discussed at this time before we proceed with the Department of Legislation? All agreed.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, I am quite in agreement and I expect the same reservations as the other Leaders of Opposition do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed?

MR. CORBETT: The Department of Welfare set up a standard of living--the cost of a standard of living which they figured was acceptable to the needy people in this province and they augmented, in certain cases where the need was established; they augmented the old age pension sufficiently to meet that standard of living. I am quite sure that if it can be proven that the cost of living is going up any reasonable amount--I believe they have made some changes quite recently--they will bring that standard of living up to the amount necessary. They'll augment the pensions. Well the people that were drawing social assistance through the Provincial Government were getting what was recognized as sufficient to live on. That's very simple and I can't see what all this howdy-do is about. Now the Federal Government has increased the old age pension by \$10, which means that the assistance they need from other sources is only required enough to reach that standard as set. So what is all this howdy-do about the Provincial Government reaching into the pockets of the old age pensioners and stealing his money from them. It's a lot of nonsense. The old age pensioners are getting \$65. a month from the Federal Government, of which a certain amount is always left them for their own personal purposes, and if they were getting \$20. a month from the Provincial Government which brought their needs up to the standard set, well what is the difference if the Provincial Government only gives them \$10 and they still have the amount required to The minute the need becomes greater, and the cost of living goes up, I am quite sure that the Department of Welfare and this government will see that their needs are met, but in the meantime this is a "tempest in a teapot". It looks to me as if--I'll probably be ruled out of order for this, but it looks like as if they're speaking for those wonderful newspapers of ours rather than for any particular deep-down,

(Mr. Corbett, cont'd.) heartfelt convictions that the old age pensioners are being exploited.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the last speaker just finished saying that as soon as the cost of living will rise, then the government will see that they will receive a little more--the old age pensioner will receive a little more. Could we be told then why this increase in this pension of the person if it was felt that it wasn't needed? Is it a fact--would it be then what everybody believes, that it's just a promise before an election? The honourable member tells us now that it's not needed; there's no increase in the cost of living. It's needed for everybody else but not for those people.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter this debate a little bit. I think we're all--I'm not trying to institute sweet reasonableness into the House, but I think if we have the real needs of the pensioner in mind we should come down to earth here and get our facts straight. What is the federal old age pension? The federal old age pension is a dividend paid by Canada to citizens of this country who reach a certain age. The age is 70 without a means test, and it is 65 under the old age assistance, blind, and DA with income ceilings. In introducing The Social Allowances Act in this province it was our sincere desire to meet need where it existed. It was only too apparent to me and to my colleagues, and certainly I understood all the members of this House who stood up and voted for it to a last man, that we did want to meet this need. Here we had introduced--this was precipitated in our time in office because of the implementation of hospitalization and the changing welfare concept. Not only after we paved the way in Manitoba, blazed the way, we find governments of every political faith across this nation copying verbatim The Social Allowances Act of Manitoba. Saskatchewan has copied it, and incidentally New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Columbia have lifted whole sections of our act out. Now these are the facts of the matter. And why have we this concept? Because we believe in the need principle.

I want to tell you what the impact of this is on a pensioner say in an institution in the town of Gimli. The rates in that home used to be \$38 a month only five or six years ago. As the standards of care in the institution, like that in other institutions have risen across the province; as more care element--some nursing care needed for these frail elderly--more nursing care and activity areas are established in these institutions; the cost of care in many of these institutions has risen to around \$90 to \$125 up to say, \$150-\$165 a month. These are people who don't need acute and constant medical and nursing care, but they need some help with daily activities. Under your Social Allowances Act, there was the instrument by which you were able to supplement the basic dividend paid by Canada by an amount to meet the care of that patient or that individual, and also to give him \$5.00 extra comfort allowance when they are in institutions. Under The Social Allowances Act, to an individual you offer \$10 in cash if they needed it and, to a couple, up to \$15 in cash over and above their basic needs, plus the provision of medical care in all of these institutions and the Medicare card to those outside of institutions. The Minister has indicated that, on the whole, roughly these average around, I think it's now, --I don't know the latest figure of the number of our senior citizens over 65 who have been able to take advantage of this principle. Many we have found getting along on their means, on their needs, the monies they have, but requiring freedom from catastrophic care and medical and hospital care and the Medicare is still a real breach in this area.

Now it doesn't matter how much the--in working on this principal, the idea is that some people need an awful lot of support, and I am sure we all agree that to give everyone over 70 \$150 a month would be very wonderful if the country could afford it and our resources were able to permit this, but it's up to the federal authorities in pre-conservative days, as in conservative days here, to give this pension and to increase it within their ability to do so. Many thousands of pensioners receive the \$65 of course as a matter of right, as we pointed out. The accusations in this House today are to the effect that we are, in some way, denying the pensioner who is receiving, whose pension has gone up to \$65, we are somehow withdrawing these monies and not allowing them to accrue to his cash benefit. But I think you then have to say to yourself, is the needs test under The Social Allowances Act phony? What do you want? Here we have an old couple in a home, where one may have a stroke, which has happened and it's repeated many times, where the wife who is looking after him may become ill, they want to be together in their own home. The Social Allowances Act is permitted up to \$90 a month to be paid and more, whatever was the need for say a housekeeper plus the laying on of essential

(Mr. Johnson, cont'd.) health services to keep them together in their home. It would be pretty hard, except under a needs principle such as I have enunciated, to truly meet the needs of people in this category; and there are somewhere over 260 of these people being supported in home-care situations under the social allowances legislation. There are many getting this extra cash allowance and we think this is a sensible, practical method of the resources of the province being diverted into true need, rather than putting money indiscriminately into ever-increasing across-the-board allowances. I think we hear in public today that people are concerned, that we hear all this talk of political parties out-bidding one another in this area of across-the-board pensions.

I think and I always will say this, that it is up to the Federal Government to say what the basic dividend to our senior citizens should be and it's up to us at the local level to complement, in partnership with the federal authorities, the needs as we see them in our particular jurisdiction. And I make this plea again. Now I don't think the members opposite, especially in the Liberal side of the bench, can make too much hay on this question, and it may be that they never will understand the concept under the needs test. Again, I can only make the plea that we are moving in this area; we are trying to play it straight, as I say through our individual assessment; by a staff who conscientiously are trying to bring the spirit of the act to these people and to give the assistance where needed. But this only applies to those people who write in and who are enrolled on extra cash allowance at this time.

I just thought that this may be in some way helpful. In case some of the members have overlooked some of the points as brought forth by the Minister this afternoon, we must look at this in a very sane and practical manner because this is of the utmost importance to these old people. I would like to know what policies the Opposition parties have to truly meet need other than the policy which we have enunciated under The Social Allowances legislation.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would permit a question. Is the Minister satisfied that the \$5 or \$10 which is left to these people in the institutions is enough to meet their needs--to use his own phrase? Is he satisfied that those amounts are enough?

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Having attended an institution of 115 people for some years, I would say that when the total needs of the individual are met and provision for health services added, that \$5 is the minimum for comfort certainly. The comforts allowance of \$5 to people in institutions, and nothing further in many cases, I admit may not be enough, but it certainly meets the minimum needs of the patient as a comforts allowance when all the other total care is provided.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think to me the whole thing evolves around the base upon which we ascertain the minimum requirements on the basis of need. Now the Minister, I think quite properly, the Minister of Health quite properly I think a moment ago, and also the member for Selkirk mentioned that--Well, first of all, the Minister of Health mentioned the dividend of now \$65 a month in respect of those over 70 under the social security allowance. The member for Selkirk speaking before we came into the Committee mentioned the fact that he thought that the increase, I think he was most generous to the administration at Ottawa when he said that party politics decide they had come to the conclusion that a more proper figure of this dividend should be increased from \$55 to \$65 a month in respect of social security, and consequently, of course, this affected the social assistance allowance. That was raised also. But it seems to me, now I would like to be corrected by the Minister of Welfare if this is not correct, but it seems to me that in arriving at the figure of the basis of need, that before anyone can really receive any increase, any recipient of need can receive any personal increase, that the regulations setting up those amounts must be changed. I believe these are the latest figures. They are the Regulation of (7) 1960, which sets forth the amount that is considered for the purposes of the regulation of the basic necessity under The Social Allowances Act. For food--a single adult, or the first adult in a family of two beneficiaries, \$23.00 a month, and then it goes on a scale of different amounts. For clothing--each adult, \$5.00 per month; rent, \$25.00 per month for a single person living alone; for fuel, \$15.00 a month for each single person living alone in an unheated room, each family \$15.00 per month in an unheated room, or in an unheated house, \$19.00; household and personal needs for each single person living alone, \$10.00 a month; \$5.00 for a person in an institution except where different amounts are set by the institution and authorized by the director. I think that's the point the Minister of Welfare made

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) earlier this afternoon. Now, it seems to me that if the government is not changing the regulations in these amounts, then they are not taking into consideration what we presume is the reason for the increase in the base pension from \$55 to \$65 per month, that basic reason being, if we take the remarks as I interpret them of the Minister of Health and also the Minister himself, is a realization of the increased need or an increased dividend to the elder citizens of Canada. If this government is still going to retain the base of the necessities as contained in this regulation of 1960, then the government is going to gain as a result of the increase in the old age security pension and the new change in the old age assistance, because they are going to use the total amount of the income, which of course includes the pension, in arriving at the amount of difference it has made up between the total income of the person and the amount of contribution under The Social Allowances Act. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that that is the point that requires clarification. If these regulations which were announced in the Gazette on March 5th, 1960 are still the basis of arriving at what is deemed the basic necessity for the purpose of the social allowances, if they haven't been increased and the increased contribution from old age security is increased by the \$10 a month, then the government opposite, or the Treasury should I say, will receive benefit as a result of the increase in the base pension. That is, I think, the matter that should be cleared up first.

MR. ROBLIN: hope on my part that I would add anything very much to the discussion at this stage or perhaps to clear up some of the confusion that appears to exist, but probably I might be allowed to try. I think you have to get down to some pretty basic fundamentals which have been completely ignored by some who have contributed to this discussion, and that is this, that regardless of what took place in Ottawa in the minds of the Ministers when this increase of \$10 was proposed, we in this House, this government, the people of this province decided some time ago, two or three years ago, that a \$55 pension in some circumstances was simply not enough for people to live upon. We decided two or three years ago, long before the federal decision, that the cost of living demanded some further assistance for those in need. So we take our whole approach to this matter, do we not--and as far as I know it was accepted by the Liberal Party, and perhaps not approved but accepted by the CCF Party at the time, are we not forced to consider the basis of the whole of this legislation which has been said is based on need. So we took the level of \$55 and we devote a scale of additional assistance which we would pay to meet the need, and that is the scale of assistance that is paid today. Now it should be pointed out that we have no objection, we welcome the fact that the floor is raised for everybody whether they have any need or not, that's all right with us, but when it comes to the implementation of our policy, which the whole House voted for let it be remembered, we are still wedded to the principle of need; and we therefore say that when the needs change then our standards of care will change, but if the needs are relatively the same, then the same standard of assistance prevails; and that is the basis on which we decide whether or not some portion of this \$10 shall be retained or whether it will not be retained.

Now the Leader of the New Democratic Party raised a very good point a minute or two ago when he said: "What about your standard of need?" That's what he now brings into question. I rather think that he understands what we're trying to do and he is now saying to us: "That's all very well, but what about your standard of need? It's dated 1960". Well now I have to confess to him that we do have to have some regard to that standard of need, and as the cost of living changes and circumstances change, we have to consider making changes in that standard of care. That standard is now some two years old. I know that there may be some debate about this but, by and large, with respect to the essentials of life, the cost of living has remained relatively standard. There have been some changes but they have not been of great importance. We check those figures against our standard of need regularly to see whether alterations are called for. In fact, as the Minister said sometime ago, some small changes have been made in the standard of rents because we found that the rent allowances that we were making available in the Winnipeg area simply wasn't fair in respect of particularly single people who were living alone, so we increased the allowances for rent.

A MEMBER: When?

MR. ROBLIN: Just recently. About, I think, --subsequent to that it'll probably be published in the next issue of the Gazette. --(Interjection)--I don't know. I haven't seen it but the regulation was altered within a matter of a month, let's say. So we keep these matters under

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) review to try and make sure that our standards of need are kept in touch with the circumstances in which we find ourselves. So if we accept the principle of need, and if we agree that long ago we decided we should do more for these people, and we did it, then I think the position that we are taking today is a logical and defensible position--and I'll go further--and it's in the public interest. It is in the public interest because it reinforces the principle that we are operating here on need. And why is that in the public interest? First, because it takes care of those exceptional cases, and there are 20,000 or so in this province which need, some of them much more than any \$65 pension can ever bring. We have some 2,000 people in the nursing homes of this province who are, apart from their pension, supported by the Treasury of the province that the taxpayers of Manitoba support. Two-thirds of the people in our nursing homes are taken care of in this way. Do we refuse to pay when the nursing homes ask for more money from us and every year they do? If they can justify the fact that their costs have gone up, which they have in some cases, mostly for labour in these nursing homes, then our payments to them go up. It is not out of the way to find the Provincial Treasurer paying some \$30, \$40, or \$50 a month as an addition to support these people in these nursing homes. I don't think we're doing any less than our duty. I don't think we should expect to be congratulated on that. We are doing what is our plain obligation to do under the circumstances. We don't wait until the Federal Government at Ottawa raise pensions by \$10 a month. We act when the need arises. That is what we have been doing and that is what we will do. And when costs of living rise so that we must adjust our scale of support to these folks, as the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party quite properly drew attention to, then we're going to see that those changes are made. We're going to try to keep it in step.

But I do beg members to get it out of their minds that we're profiteering on this; to get it out of their mind that we're taking that money out of the pocket of the old age pensioner to balance our budget or something of that sort. All you've got to do is look at the figures in the estimates and see that, under Welfare and Social Allowance, millions of dollars more will be spent this year. Because what are we doing? We are making our welfare money go as far as we can because we know that even with our standards, which we think are reasonable--I would never say they were generous; I would never say that anyone on this standard rolls in luxury--no, far from it. We know that every cent counts for those people under those circumstances, and that if we're going to do the greatest good for the people who really need it, we have to see that this money goes as far as possible and we have to see that we make the best use of it as we can. I am certain that in the course of the next few years, certainly before the next pension increase comes, that we're going to be increasing our standards of welfare. We're doing it all the time. You look in the estimates here and you will see that we're spending one, two, three million dollars more, is it, on various types of welfare, most of it going into social allowances. We're certainly not making any profit on that. I think we are operating in a perfectly logical, reasonable and, I trust, humane point of view in dealing with this problem.

Somebody gave me an amusing cartoon from the Free Press tonight, which I suppose members will enjoy because it shows Mr. Diefenbaker rolling out the \$10 pension and Mr. Roblin rolling it up, and the poor pensioner is sort of in between wondering just what's happening to him. Well, that is a cartoon which could well have been drawn by an organ of this New Democratic Party, because they don't believe in the needs test. But for anybody who believes in the needs test; anybody who believes in the needs principle; anyone who thinks that across-the-board payments of this kind are questionable when one has a limited budget and cannot easily meet the obligations that are placed upon one; then I find the sentiment here somewhat misplaced. Well, Mr. Diefenbaker's going to have to look after himself and I guess he's well able to do that. All that I'm trying to do, all that I'm trying to do is to indicate to the House the basis on which our policy has been established. While I must say I think that the members of the New Democratic Party, who I don't think are very keen about the needs test, they're going to say: "Let them have it anyway", and if we had enough money, how delightful that would be. I really don't understand why we're getting any serious complaints from the members of the Liberal Party because they never did anything of this sort. They didn't have these extra grants. We do have them and we're operating them on a perfectly, I think, reasonable and logical basis. We're trying to meet the needs, and that is what the policy that the government is following here endeavours to do.

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) Now you will find that under this policy those people who are getting Medicare, there is no change whatsoever. One might say that if they're getting \$10 a month more, why not make them pay something on Medicare, or why not make them pay something in that respect. We didn't think that was the right thing to do. I want to say that from my limited experience the reception of the public Medicare is even more gratifying than the extra cash allowance. Many people who are in need appreciate the assistance they get under Medicare, of being able to have those services available, very much indeed. They are not being disturbed in any way. Their Minister has explained that various categories of people receive different amounts of money under this arrangement, but when we deal with the main category that is troubling people, and that is those who are in institutions, never forget this fact, that we met their need when it arose. We didn't wait for any pension increase, we met it then; and if the need is still there, we meet it now. We are not relating it to if and when anybody should deal with the across-the-board pensions as are done from time to time in the country. Our policy is to meet the need. We met it. We didn't wait for other people to increase the pension. We still stand ready to meet that need. I think that when members have a chance to reflect upon it, I hope they'll agree that what we're doing is fair and sensible under the circumstances.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. GRAY: I was up even before anybody spoke.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'm certainly very interested in the long speeches that we got from the Minister of Health and the First Minister on this subject. They roamed all over the place. I don't intend to follow all their meanderings, I want to get back to the point that we're discussing, but I do want to correct--(interjection)--Do you want to make a speech? --(interjection)--I do want to make one correction in what the First Minister said. He is trying to imply that it was only when his government came into power that the idea of helping old age pensioners was developed. I would like to point out to him that long before--the government that was then in power was assisting old age pensioners over and above the contributions that they were receiving--long before. It's true that the methods by which they were doing it were different. They were doing it through the municipalities, but it was the province, the Government of Manitoba that was bearing the large part of the cost, so don't try and confuse the issue. Don't try and confuse the issue.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): tell us what that policy was.

MR. MOLGAT: Yes. Literally it was based upon the contributions that the municipalities made, and if it got over a certain percentage of a certain mill rate, then the province contributed a greater amount, and this increased as time went on.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Would the Honourable Leader of the Opposition permit a question?

MR. MOLGAT: Certainly.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Would he tell us the numbers of pensioners who actually were enrolled by municipalities for extra cash allowance?

MR. MOLGAT: No, I'm sorry I haven't got the figures.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): No, it'd be pretty hard to find them.

MR. MOLGAT: That may be, but the policy was there and a lot of them were being assisted. However, my honourable friend draws up all this other material. They want to discuss this issue as a smoke-screen. I want to get down to the basic elements of this discussion and the points that I brought up in my speech this afternoon, and that point is very simple. The federal government has increased the old age pension by \$10.00. In my opinion, every individual who is eligible for that amount, who is an old age pensioner, should get that \$10.00 -- everyone of them. What is happening, in effect, is that my honourable friends are deducting from certain old age pensioners and they are not getting that increase. They are not getting that increase. They can speak all they want about the fact that they were getting some extra allowance before and all the rest this, but relatively, an old age pensioner who was receiving \$55 before is now going to receive \$65, whereas one who was receiving extra cash from you may receive less, and certainly is not going to receive any more. That's the whole point of the discussion and my honourable friend the Minister of Welfare admitted it the other day when he spoke in the House, when he said that the cash allowance under The Social Allowances Act may be reduced somewhat, and in other cases where they are paying for the board or rent of

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd) . . . certain old age pensioners, this government is reducing the contribution that it's making. This is coming out of a pension that is given by the federal government -- that's the whole point.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a blessing today, to see the day when the Liberals and the Conservatives expressed a certain concern about the old age pensioners. So far if you read the Hansards, and I could prove it to you with the Journals, everyone at any time we try to improve the lot of the old age pensioners, we heard even the reverend gentleman here, who always has an interest in the poor and the unfortunate and the old age pensioners, coming out with long Biblical speeches to show us how we should not grant and voted against it, and the same time -- oh, I water it down with something else. When I rose to speak, I did not see the Leader of the Liberal Party getting up, and a gentleman over there said: "He at least has something to say." I think an expression of this kind is unworthy of the member, unworthy of the member. I have been here 20 years and the people thought that I do say something somewhere, at sometime, and you have no right to ignore the wish and the will of the people and tell them that my Leader will still have something to say. And what in the world did he say? What did he say? A good word for the old age pensioner, the first time in his life since he came in here, as far as I remember. (Interjection) I am listening very carefully believe me. (Interjection) I have, I am listening very carefully, and I read the Hansard too. I am not as dumb as your friend thinks I am. And if I am I won't be here because I do not want a dumb man to sit among so many intellectuals. It's almost ridiculous how they all come with overnight and lets him wait, what's going to happen to the motions we have submitted. They want a motion they have submitted for many years of an increase to \$75 a month. And take your own trouble, have your own secretary check the journals and check the speakers and I don't need to tell you right now. And if you do I'll take the trouble of telling you that. I think it's ridiculous, it's insulting, it's unworthy and it should not have been mentioned. Instead of encouraging a man who has spent his time for 46 years in public life and for 50 years in communal life, encouraging me to my old age, helping me to get out of the building when I cannot do it myself sometime, because I am old and weak, instead of he throws water and stones and rocks. I'd like to say something but it's not parliamentary.

Now in my opinion, unless I am wrong, the discussion today is based on the amount which the pensioner gets for spending money -- that's my interpretation. I say that the institutions here, the old age institutions, and I know something about them, I investigated, I called on them and I am a member of one institution myself. They have given them \$5.00 a month long before the government instructions. They have given them \$5.00 per month when they came in there but not eligible for pension, such as cases and so on. They have given them \$5.00 a month before they got \$55 and now \$65 a month. They have given them this \$5.00 for spending money a long time ago. I only checked a few minutes ago with one of the superintendents in an old folks home and they say now they are giving them the amount they are instructed by the department to give them, because at the present time, the Department of Welfare is subsidizing or paying for each inmate that's in the Old Folks Home who is eligible for social assistance. So they cannot do anything on their own irrespective of what they do internally to make the life much happier in the golden age period of this life. So now if you want the institutions -- I am speaking about the institutions only now, and not mixed up with anything else -- if you want the institutions to give them more they will be very happy to do it tomorrow; they will be very happy to do it and obey to the orders of the department. I don't think they are trying to save anything. To them, as long as the inmate is satisfied, the more he is satisfied, the easier it is for them and the less expense they have on the administration -- the less expense they have on the administration and the less expense to the state. If they're satisfied, they keep well, they keep healthy. They are providing them at their expense will all the amusements, social gatherings, concerts -- and for an old man it seems a lot -- otherwise the poor woman sits and looks at the window all day long, dreaming and hoping and crying, "where are her children? Why don't they come? Why don't they visit her? It may not be possible, but now with a full program in all the institutions, with a full program of some interest in life, they are more satisfied and in the long run it pays.

So the question now is as far as I am concerned, and I appreciate very much the First Minister's remarks just now, as far as they are concerned if the public felt the welfare department is interested for the old age pensioner to get another quarter or a dollar or three dollars for their

(Mr. Gray, cont'd) personal spending money so that they can go out to the store and buy a drink so that they can go out and buy a package of cigarettes, so that they can go out and take a bus to go down and visit somebody -- that's the time for you to tell them, otherwise there is no argument whatsoever. When it comes to the general discussion for the old age pension we probably will have something to say.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, we have got off on a different tangent to what this particular debate started over and we must attribute that side-tracking to the First Minister. We didn't start off this debate on the grounds that the Social Assistance Act wasn't doing a good job, where it was doing a job. I think that anybody will give the government credit for the work that they have done under this particular Act. That isn't the issue. The issue is, what has this government done with the additional contributions by the federal government to pensioners. That is the issue, and that is what we are discussing. Now, no doubt there are additional costs in institutions and homes but certainly the federal government didn't make these grants to the institutions and the homes. The grants were made, the additional grants or the additional pensions were made to benefit the pensioner and that is the point of argument. Is the pensioner getting this benefit, or is the Treasury of this Government getting some of that benefit; and there is no question at all this government is benefiting from those additional contributions. This government has made certain commitments under the Social Allowance Act. Now what are they doing? Under the Old Age Security where they had made a commitment on behalf of a pensioner in a home, they now take, they now take the \$10.00 increase in his pension to assist them in paying his maintenance in that home. They're actually getting out from under their responsibility, their commitments under the Social Allowances Act. It is actually being used by this government as a grant towards the work that they are doing, or supposed to be doing, under the Social Allowances Act. And that's as clear as can be, there is no getting around that. As to whether the government is justified in doing it or not, that is another point altogether. But the charge here is, the charge from here is that pension increases made to the pensioners by the federal government is being used by the provincial government under its Social Allowances Act. That is the charge and that charge sticks and you can't get out from under it.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, why must my honourable friend persist in perverting the philosophy of the Social Allowances Act, because it is as clear as can be that there are two sides to the argument, or to the setting of social allowances. On the one hand is the means available to the person concerned and on the other hand is the need. We recognized the need long before any pension changes were made when the means of the pensioner changes, then of course one considers what share of the need should be met by the province in this respect. If the means of the pensioner change in any other respect apart from his pension, apart from other income, then of course the thing has to be reconsidered again. So there is the closest connection between the philosophy of the Social Allowances Act which I have been trying to put forward this afternoon and what we do when the circumstances of the pensioner change. Now here, look at it from the other point of view. If that pensioner's need increases, supposing he develops diabetes, supposing he becomes -- he is not in a nursing home, but he has to go to a nursing home and his costs increase. What do we do? Forget about him, say to him, well what you got for your need last year was \$10.00 extra over the pension and we don't care that you've gone into the nursing home and that your costs are higher; we don't care that you got a drug bill with diabetes. We don't say that; we meet that need. So that if we're doing it on the one side, I think that it is honest and fair to be doing it on the other side, and that is the very nub and essence of the whole argument, and that is why we say we are right to do what we are doing, because we are endeavouring to meet need -- if that need increases even though the pension does not increase, we'll try and meet it. If the need decreases because of any change on the income side of the ledger then that has to be taken into account. Now it's very simple. If you think that the Social Allowances Act in principle is sound then this is the way it is operated. If you have got some other ideas about how we should be carrying on that's well and good, but I think that within the ambit of the Act, that should have been well understood by all members of the House because we talked about it every year, that what we are doing is quite understandable and also it is fair in the circumstances.

MR. DESJARDINS: The Premier said a while ago, I don't know if it was wishful thinking, I hope not, but he said awhile ago that somebody might say that this money should be used for medicare. Well nobody has said that, I haven't heard anybody say that in this House. We agree,

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd) ... and it certainly is the philosophy of this party that everybody is entitled to hospitalization and medical care, so that is something that shouldn't have been brought in at all.

Now it was said awhile ago that the Honourable, the Minister of Health has said it himself, that he realized that this \$5.00 is small and I agree with him that you can't just say, "all right we'll give you a fortune, we'll give you this, we'll give you that" -- you have to pay along to what you can afford. But this was done by this government before there was any increase in pension. This was all done before this government -- they were ready to do it. Now they're saying this, "somebody wants to come in and say these poor people, they just have the bare minimum, let's take them out for a meal". But if they follow their system through, that's one meal that they've got, so they will deduct that from them -- if anybody wants to give them a little extra. And isn't that what the Government in Ottawa is trying to do. Telling those people, "that's fine, we feel that you should have a little more, and we all agree that we want to go higher and higher until people can live like free men. This is what was said in this House before. We all agree I think on that, that we want people to live, not only be free, but be able to live like free men. All right now they're coming in the federal government -- we won't discuss motives here, but the federal government came in and said, "we would like to give these people a little more". We are not knocking the Act now, we are not knocking the Province of Manitoba for what they have been doing. I was the first one to tell the Honourable the Minister that I figured there was at least one in there that was sincere, that was trying his best and I don't deny that, but this is something different. Somebody's coming in and saying, "here, here is \$10.00 more, for what are we doing?" And if the Government of Manitoba is sincere in this thing, if they feel this way we can't afford that, let them stand up and tell the Government of Ottawa, "well don't give an increase, don't give an increase -- give us an increase in grants. Give us an increase, because you're treating it the same as if it was a grant from the Government of Ottawa". Is that right or isn't it? Exactly the same as if it was an increase in grants from the Government of Ottawa. This money was meant to make life a little easier. We're not running down, or at least I am not running down your Act at all, but I'm saying somebody's coming in that wants to give a little more and you're taking it. Now it seems that those people -- you said awhile ago, that you based yourself on \$55.00 per month and you try to meet the need. Well that -- and you said the cost of living didn't go up, so therefore that same \$55 that you're basing on then is the same now, so then get up and accuse the Government of Canada of being wrong then in giving them a little more. But there's nobody -- they weren't starving any more then than they are now. But the government -- as I say we won't go into any reasons for that. Maybe you should, maybe you should tell your government at Ottawa, "you're not sincere, why bring this here? Give us a little more money to help us". Maybe if you'd present it like that maybe we'd go along with you on this end. As I say again, it's not the Act; this is something -- don't bring in medicare. We're altogether here saying that every citizen of this province deserves the right to be looked after by doctors and in hospitals and so on, but if the government of Ottawa gives a little more, don't take it away from them -- and that's exactly what you are doing. You might call it a different way, call it what you want, maybe you're not taking it away from his pocket. If not, you're going ahead and taking his mail, you're getting it away before it gets in his pocket then, but you're taking it. That's exactly what's happening.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The Minister of Health.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to stand up to refute categorically what the Member for St. Boniface has said. He must -- these blanket statements just don't hold. The champions of the means tests for 80 years in Canada can't overnight justify themselves in the eyes of the people of Manitoba by saying the things he's said about the Social Allowances Act. I think the First Minister put it very clearly. The social allowance principle says, we measure the individual's needs on an individual basis and meet the need in this way. We're only talking about those people -- those senior citizens of Manitoba who feel they need extra assistance who contact our office and whom we help. In many cases -- in the majority of cases -- in many cases as we have indicated in this House the high cost cases are -- their needs are met in a very realistic way, something which across-the-board allowances could never meet. We're talking about these groups who qualify for social allowance, and in many cases -- for example, a man who says is on \$55 now and who has had a visit from a social worker; she measures his

(Mr. Johnson, cont'd) . . . income, his shelter, his food and he's getting along fine but he needs another \$7.00. At the present time he would get \$7.00 plus a medicare card. Now he's going to get an extra \$3.00 from the federal authorities in the across-the-board . . . which Canada is going to pay him, but on this basis he will get a medicare card. He's going to be a little bit better off than he was before, in many of these borderline cases who are under social allowances. All those in institutions, no across-the-board allowance program that Canada could devise could truly meet their needs, and I think we have to keep these facts in front of us and not make blanket statements about the government's attitude towards pensioners as a whole -- to categorize and group together as you have done.

MR. DESJARDINS: Just tell me which blanket accusation or blanket charge that he is referring to. It is not quite plain. Is he sorry that we are in favour of his Act. Is that what you are trying to say? Sometimes we are told we are not the champion of this and the next breath we are told everybody in this House vote for it. What are we trying to do? Is there any sincerity here? We're told by this group, "you never do this when we say something. Well, just what is it you want? Let's ask the Honourable Minister, do you want us to work together on this or do you want us to oppose you? Is that what you want? Let's have a little bit of -- I don't know what charge he's talking about. I just said this that I repeated it, that I agreed that I'm saying there's some good work being done there. I've said that in the past and I say it again. But this is something else, this is a Government at Ottawa who is saying we want to make this a little better. It's not only them, it's every citizen that receives that. Those that aren't getting any help from you. They're \$10.00 richer; they'll live a little better, and this is what Ottawa wants. And as I say if there is merit to what you think, tell Ottawa, "well this is not the way to do it, because we are taking care; they're our dependents, we're taking care of them so send us the money." Then we will talk to you on that, but not when you say you're not taking the pension, because you are. You are ready to give that money, you were giving it two, three months ago and now you're giving \$10.00 less. Ten dollars less. (Interjection) You're still talking about need; that's fine but that pension, you're giving \$10.00 less. They're receiving the same amount. You might say -- you say it's not costing them anymore. It's not costing the fellow living in that little suite anymore, but he's living a little better. Maybe he'll smoke three or four cigarettes a day instead of one, or maybe he will be able to buy a package of cigarettes once in awhile instead of picking butts. That is the difference. We're not -- don't try to get us to say that, not me anyway, that I'm knocking your Act -- I'm not. But I'm saying that if you don't like the way this is done, tell Ottawa, "we are taking care of those people; send us the money, we are entitled to it". That's the only question.

MR. A. J. REID (Kildonan): Mr. Chairman, the First Minister mentioned awhile ago the needs of the people of the Province of Manitoba will be looked after. There is also other groups in our society, volunteer groups, Mr. Chairman, of many organizations. They visit these institutions, old folks homes and all these other institutions that we have -- these people visit them and they visit them regularly, and if there is no need for it, why would these people have to go round every month and supply them with small essentials of life which are essential to them and they haven't got the means with which to get them with and the Welfare Department doesn't supply it either. So I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, there must be a need there and I hope the government takes that under advisement and looks into that because if there was no need all these organizations, and I can mention a list of them, they don't go around regularly month to month -- I'll invite the First Minister, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Welfare and we'll go on a tour on a month with these people and they'll see what they require. Their amounts may be small, but still they haven't got the means with which to pay for it. So I am telling this government there is a need and the government should give the people back that \$10.00.

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MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I was quite interested in the remarks of the Honourable Member from Kildonan because I recall hearing him make a few remarks the other day with respect to the terrible debt of the Province of Manitoba and so I shall confidently expect that when we come to the question of voting for these tremendous increases in the social allowances estimates that he will not raise that for revision before us again and that he will stand up and be counted as favouring this tremendous increase which has been alluded to before in the debate today -- an increase from six million six to eight million two under the Social Allowances Act, and that he for one, and I believe he is the only one on his side of the House, will not be too concerned about the increase in debt, perhaps that may be occasioned by that --(Interjection).

Now for my friend in the official Opposition. If ever we have seen an example and a manifestation, a clear one of political schizophrenia, we have it here today. Because we are going to be bombarded for the next three, four, five, six or seven weeks about the tremendous expenses of the government; about the great increases that are going on in all of the departments of government. Where is the money coming from? The imposition on the taxpayer and all of this. (Interjection) They may try to sing a different tune at times but I know that this is going to come out. (Interjection) The official Opposition, the official Opposition. Mr. Chairman, I realize that it is difficult for my honourable friends in the official Opposition to cast out of their minds this across-the-board penurious increase of a type that they used to give before. I know we all remember the days when the five dollar and the six dollar increase was all they gave across-the-board. Meeting need is a concept that is really foreign to them. Meeting need is a concept that they voted for, but I think it has become very apparent that they really didn't know what they were voting for when they voted for the Social Allowances Act.

I hate to confuse the political attacks by members of the official Opposition by some of the facts, but I think some of the facts should be made available to them. I'm sure that they have, and I am sure that I will be repeating in large part what has been said by the First Minister, the Minister of Welfare, the Minister of Health, and I'm sure which is understood by members of the NDP Party. But we have in the type of attack made today by the Leader of the Opposition some concept that the Social Allowances Act is a bonus system, a statutory bonus, an across-the-board thing, a matter of right; if you're getting sixteen dollars a month extra assistance today, you're bound to get sixteen dollars a month for the rest of your life. And that is not it at all. That is consonance with the old scheme that they followed, which we all changed, and which I think we ushered out quite cheerfully. And I'm sure the old age pensioners were quite happy to see it go. That is in consonance with that type of thing; but it certainly is diametrically opposed to the type of thinking that is apparent in the Social Allowances Act.

I wonder if too many honourable members across the way in the official Opposition have taken the trouble to read the Act and to see just exactly the principles that are laid down in that legislation - Section seven: "If he feels that an applicant should receive a social allowance the director shall, subject to sub-section 2, by his written order, fix the amount of the allowance that shall be paid to him. The director shall fix an amount that, in his opinion, will be sufficient to provide the applicant with an income sufficient to pay the cost of his basic necessities." Statutory. Here's the heart of the whole matter. "In fixing an amount under subsection 2, the director shall take into consideration, and may deem to be part of the income of the applicant, all other income and regular periodical receipts or revenue, including an amount deemed by the director to be income-value of any of the assets of the applicant and his dependent, if any, from any source, ". From any source. And he may include in that income any amount that in his opinion is the net value of his income after payment of any charges applicable thereto of occupancy of real estate, of food clothing and other necessary supply. Subsection 4. "Subject to subsection 3, which I have just read, "The receipt of a pension under the Old Age Security Act, Canada, assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act, or an allowance under the Blind Person's Allowance Act, or under the Disabled Persons Allowance Act, does not of itself disqualify the recipient from receiving a social allowance under this Act." It most certainly doesn't disqualify him, but it is part of income. Now if we are to adopt the principles of my honourable friends in the official Opposition we must say this: A man who is receiving social allowances today in any amount, if he falls heir tomorrow to an estate of \$5,000 according to them he continues to receive social allowances as of right, by statute. And that is not the case. That is not the case. If his income --(Interjection) the Act says that if his income is augmented from any source at

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd) ... all the director by Statute must take this into account. Along with the First Minister, along with everybody on this side of the House, I am not going to say that the payments received by old age pensioners under social allowances are generous, but I do say that they are motivated to give him a fair and a basic way of life; to give him the basic necessities of life. That's what the Act is intended to do. We know, we know far better than my honourable friends in the official Opposition, we know far better that more can be done. And, as the First Minister said: "we're looking at it all the time." As a matter of fact if you refer to the Regulations, Section 9 of the Regulations of 1960, "each recipient's circumstances shall be reviewed by the director periodically, and in no case less than annually and the allowance shall be adjusted accordingly, within the limits set forth in the regulations." Now I don't see how anything could be much clearer. This is not a bonus. This is something that is much broader than anything that my honourable friends ever envisioned in their time -- this looks at the whole and the total concept of need. And to say that the Government of Manitoba is robbing the pensioners of this ten dollars is just so much absolute malarkey. The money is being received but the social allowance if the need has not increased -- if the need has not increased -- the need for the same amount of social allowance is obviously not there. Under the prevailing scale, and I'm not saying for a moment that the scale is overly generous, not at all, but this is what the statute says: this is what you voted for; this is what we're all working for in this House to try to increase these standards year by year as more money becomes available -- and look what we're doing this year. Another two or two and a half millions of dollars. Are we getting that out of the pockets of the old age pensioners? We certainly aren't. We're getting it out of the general revenues of this province. That's where it's coming from.

And so in the light of everything that's been said by the Liberals today, I hope, Mr. Chairman, we'll all remember when we come to vote for this item on the welfare estimate, we want them to stand up as a body, as they stood up today, and vote and cry Hallelujah for this increase, because if there is any semblance of reason, if there is any semblance of truth, if there's any semblance of true conscience in what they say today, that's what they'll do, that's what they'll do; that's what they have to do if they're going to be consistent. Because we know what we're trying to do. I think the NDP have a glimmering of what we're trying to do, but I'm afraid that my honourable friends opposite are a lost cause. And it may well be -- I never like to make political prognostications -- but it may well be, that they'll fall back and lapse into their old ways and they'll vote against this increase as being detrimental to the taxpayers of Manitoba. We'll only have to wait and see. But I tell them right now, and I charge them right now with this responsibility, they better be ready to vote for this increase if their hearts are where their tongues are today. And we're going to look forward with a great deal of interest, as are all of the old age pensioners in Manitoba, to the vote of the Liberal Party when they come to this item in the estimates.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: I want to accept that challenge. I'll accept that challenge with one reservation; that we'll expect the government to deduct the subsidy they obtain from the Federal Government in these old age pension contributions.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: This is obviously the point that they're trying to make and they're having quite a difficult time doing it. They are trying to prove that the increase in the old age pension is going to save the Province of Manitoba money. Mr. Chairman, nothing could be further from the truth. This increase in pension is going to cost the Government of Manitoba money. It's going to cost us, we're not exactly sure yet because of the increase in the allowable income limits under the pension categories, but it's going to cost us upwards of two hundred thousand dollars in the coming year. And it will cost us some seventy thousand dollars to increase the pension to these people in the final two months of fiscal 1961. Now they can talk all they like, and they can try and obscure this issue in the minds, well in their own minds, because I'm sure they're not confusing anybody else, but this fact nevertheless is true. This is costing the people of Manitoba money -- a lot of money. (Interjection)

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, there's no confusion except what the governments trying to throw. The whole point is that my honourable friends are seeing to it that some of the pensioners in Manitoba do not get the ten dollar increase that the federal government is giving and it's as simple as that. (Interjection) Is that a fact? Do you admit that --(Interjection). Well, Mr. Speaker, that's the whole question. My honourable friends are seeing to it that the ten dollars

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd) ...that Ottawa has granted is not going to the pensioners -- it's going to the government.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: No, that is not true, Sir.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I thought this has been very amusing, sort of almost like brain washing to some degree. I know that frequently in this House I've been accused of almost leading a coalition with my friends opposite. I certainly, in matters of this nature and many others, in view of their past record, can support my friends on the right. But I take disagreement with the government on this basis -- and this may be repetitious. I can understand the reasoning of the government insofar as the net effect of this ten dollar increase on those who are in receipt of social allowances and I think their explanations in general are correct. My big beef and the beef of the old age pensioners who are on social allowance, is that the base on which we arrive at the amount, the total amount, on social allowance is not high enough. The Minister of Health quite frankly and quite sincerely, and he is a sincere individual, stated that in his opinion, that it may be questionable as to the adequacy of the five dollar monthly allowance for personal effects. I agree most heartily with him. I would even go further than mention the figure of five dollars, as my colleague from St. John's mentioned when he was speaking, "five dollars today simply isn't sufficient on a monthly basis to provide for the personal needs of an individual that's in an institution." And I think that he's perfectly correct, and I think now that there has been an increase in the social security pension, and the other pensions as well, that the government should immediately review the regulation and I referred to of 1960.

Now the First Minister mentioned the fact that it's in the process of being gazetted of some adjustment in respect of rent on this phase. I suggest that notwithstanding that the base cost of living may have only risen a relatively small amount -- and I think it has risen since the regulations of 1960 -- I ask the government notwithstanding the rather small amount of the increase, to take into consideration increasing the base for the purposes of the regulation, over and above any percentage increase in our cost of living. As against my friends on my right, I'm crying for the government -- notwithstanding the fact that they have an increase in their over-all welfare of a couple of million dollars -- I'm appealing to the government to increase that substantially in order that those people who found it necessary to obtain supplemental assistance under our Social Allowances Act, will be in a position not to have to do that. However, that would require still further increases in the base pension from federal authorities and I can appreciate that. But I say to the government, take into consideration this question of five dollars as it is allowable under the regulations, subject to some change by the Director, make that ten or fifteen dollars or whatever the figure should be -- take into consideration that the base allowed in the regulations for rent is \$15 a month, or whatever it is, to increase that in order that they may have more cash to do with themselves as a result of this.

Now I have one big criticism of the federal government and while we're dealing with the over-all questions of pensions, I have a big criticism with the federal authorities -- and I was surprised not to hear my honourable friends mention this -- for I understand that under War Veterans' Allowances Act I believe it is, or the burnt out pension, that they immediately on the increase of the \$10 in social security allowances pension, decreased the amount of the War Veterans' Allowances so that the net amount remained the same. I think those people who are getting along without any other supplemental allowances have been prejudiced against.

There's one appeal that I have, and if I can make this appeal through this House Mr. Chairman, I hope that it will be heard, and that is an appeal to the landlords of our rooming houses and our houses in the Province of Manitoba, and particularly the Greater Winnipeg area, not to use the increase of \$10 a month in old age security pensions to increase the rentals that these people have to pay. There to me is going to be, or it appears, a crime, if they do it, on many of the recipients of old age security, formerly \$55, now it's \$65, who are just scraping by without any supplemental assistance due to pride or other circumstances, and I want to use this House as an appeal to them. Again, I say my criticism with the government opposite -- they must resume the base of how they arrived at the necessities contained in their regulations. I appeal to them despite the assurances of the First Minister, on one phase namely, if I understood him correctly, a rental basis, to look over and review the whole picture.

In one aspect the Liberals have been a little bit correct today in when they say that this amount of the \$10 increase will have a bearing because of the computation of income, but as the

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) ...Minister of, the Attorney-General so correctly pointed out, that notwithstanding where the source of the additional revenue came from it would still have to be taken under consideration in our Social Allowances Act. I understand that clearly.

I ask this Government of Manitoba -- they did despite some of the arguments that I had from my honourable friend who used to be the Minister of Health and Welfare on the basis of need or means -- they did start, and we did support his legislation, I say to the Government of Manitoba, notwithstanding the past records of my honourable friends on my right to review the regulations, to increase the amount of money that a person on social assistance may have for his personal effects so that they can have more of the little odds and ends, in a sense what we deem as the essentials of living today. There to me is the area that the government must take under consideration. And Mr. Chairman, let me assure the Government and this House, as far as I am personally concerned, I am not going to object to any increase in our estimates to provide for greater comforts to those citizens of Manitoba who are less fortunate than any of us who are sitting in this House.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Chairman, I fully expect this debate will be revived again when we reach the Minister's salary, and I think it would be very helpful if we had some information from the Minister before we do reach that point. And I for one would like to know the number of persons that are presently receiving social allowances, broken down to show the number that are presently in receipt of, or -- we'll say as of January 1st, to make it a little easier -- the number presently in receipt of \$10 a month and less of social allowance, and the number greater than that; and the number that are presently receiving medicare and only medicare; and the number of persons that are presently in receipt of old age assistance pensions, blind persons and total disability -- if we could have that then it would be useful I do believe. It strikes me that, and I think someone mentioned that the number of persons presently in receipt of social allowance was in the neighbourhood of 20,000, and if half of that number are presently in receipt of a pension of \$10 a month or less, and unless the schedule is increased, well then the number of recipients of social allowance should be cut in half -- other than medicare. That's the way it strikes me.

Now according to an information service bulletin that I have before me, in fact I have three before me that are now two years old - (Interjection). That's right. In the one dated January 29th, 1960, the Minister suggests that, and I quote: "part of the Manitoba's new Social Welfare Act that went into effect on February 1st, 1960, will provide extra cash, as need dictates to an estimated 16,000 of the province's senior citizens". That was two years ago and their talking about cash, and they go on to say, "that the amount of money required to meet the need of the estimated 16,000 would be \$7,134,000.00. Now the need must not have been as great as anticipated at that time, because we certainly didn't spend in 1960 \$7,134,000 on social allowance either that or the 16,000 figure used in 1960 must have doubled or something of that kind.

Another interesting point is that presently, unless this is incorrect, you can, a recipient of social allowance can earn \$20 a month and still qualify for his social allowances unless that has been changed. Recipients, I am quoting now from the information service: "Recipients of allowance may earn up to \$20 a month without a reduction in the amount of government assistance." Well if that is so then there seems to me to be some justification for allowing them to retain the \$10 that the federal government intends to pay them. And I think that I agree with the Honourable Member of the New Democratic Party that \$5.00 a month is a pretty meagre amount to establish for personal needs. I think too, Mr. Chairman, that I heard the Attorney-General tell us that it was mandatory that the needs of each and every individual be assessed annually. Is that correct? And if so, have they carried that out -- have they introduced a new schedule each year that the social allowances has been in effect? Now I think, Mr. Chairman, if I could get an answer to some of those questions it would satisfy not only myself but a number of members of this House.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I suppose that we will be able to deal with the points raised by the honourable gentleman when the department comes up. We certainly now have notice that he wants that information. There's been a pretty wide range of discussion. I think that all points of view pretty well have been heard from, and I now suggest that perhaps the Committee might be willing to proceed with the estimates in the usual form.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker before we leave this item, I don't think that we should be

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd)in such a hurry. It seems that in the past when the government needs somebody to mend their political fence they give the job to the Attorney-General. A little while ago he said that he was challenging us, I could see that he -- and he's had a lot of success in this in the past -- he was ready to fix up this Columbo Plan and then at that special session it was the same thing. But this time if you really want to know where we stand Mr. Chairman, I would suggest, and then it wouldn't be brought back again at the estimates, the Minister's salary, that we could ask a standing vote here on the question, should those people -- just on this thing, we'll talk about this Act when the times comes -- we were supposed to talk about the pension. The Attorney-General himself said the Government of Manitoba would like to see an improvement, to give the people a little more. Now this is being offered by the Government of Ottawa, it wouldn't cost the Government of Manitoba one cent more, we're not suggesting at this time any changes or anything in the Act, and I think that this is the issue and it would be a good thing to have a standing vote here: "should these people get \$10 more a month, or should this money go to the government"? This is the question and let's not mix this up later on.

MR. R. LISSAMAN (Brandon): Quite obviously the Honourable Leader of the NDP is the only one from this side of the House, in my opinion, who has a clear understanding of the situation as the Honourable Minister of the government have tried to explain it. But, the official opposition seem to have a rather queer line of thinking, so I would like to pose two or three questions to them that will maybe expose to themselves, their unreasonableness what they're thinking. We have had it explained to us that this supplementary assistance under the Social Allowances Act is something in addition to the old age pension which sets up a certain standard of existence, not necessarily a plush living, but a certain standard of existence for older people. Now I would like to ask them this question: that supposing, supposing just for one far fetched dreaming minute that the pensions had been increased to \$150 a month, would they for one minute then say that this assistance under the Social Allowances Act should continue? This is what they are saying in regard to the \$10 increase. They surely must use a little common sense somewhere as to what we're doing with the public money. Now I would like to go back and look at what their scheme would have amounted to had we had this raise. You heard and many of us know how their scheme of supplementary assistance was managed -- through the municipalities. Let's suppose that this scheme were still in effect and the pensions were raised. Would they immediately say that the municipalities should continue to give entirely the same amount of assistance that they had given before? They claim that the municipalities were meeting need, and probably they were. The only trouble with it was that there were 101 standards of that assistance across the province; there was no uniformity. We've got that in this Act. This Act is far more generous and far more humane.

Now I know when we talk pensions the heart as well as the mind enters into the argument, and certainly I think no one in this House would want to see, or would say for one minute that either old age pensions or old age assistance is sufficient. But for goodness sakes we must consider all the people of the province, and what would have happened under this municipal scheme had an increase in the pensions come along? I can just see the venerable government looking for paying less to the municipalities in that particular case. And they wouldn't dare to holler to the municipality: "you must give them this supplementary assistance in addition to the pension". Because this is something that was meant as a need. They say well this was done before so it should go on and they should get the benefit of the pension. They had the benefit of the pension increase in advance -- this is the way to look at it, and this is the only sound way it can be looked at. Their reasoning I can't follow, and I wish they'd project these questions into their thinking.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, we've had some interesting discussion. I was interested to hear the First Minister say that everybody on that side welcomed -- I think that's the word he used -- welcomed the increase announced by the federal government. I was interested because ever since I came here in 1958, whenever the Honourable Member from Inkster has introduced his resolution about increasing -- an across-the-board increase to the old age pensions of \$75 we had some speeches which didn't welcome it at all. We had speeches by the Minister of Health, telling us that an across-the-board increase was wrong. I can remember a speech, and I am going to read it into the records on another occasion, a speech by the Honourable Member from Winnipeg Centre; a speech from the Honourable Member from Cypress; a speech by

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd) . . . the Honourable Member from St. Matthews, telling us that the across-the-board increase was almost immoral, that we were giving it to people who didn't need it, who didn't want it. We should give it all to the people who need it. Now in 1962 all of a sudden all of those speeches are forgotten and we are welcoming this across-the-board increase. Well, that's by the way, and I suppose we all learn from experience and we all have a right to change our minds. I wish that the people who change their minds would on occasion admit that they have changed their minds and that maybe there was something in what we said. But that's by the way, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to talk about the people on the right. Their record was such that the people of Manitoba expressed themselves very eloquently on how they felt about it and it's going to be a long time, if ever, before they're sitting on that side so I'm not going to bother with them.

I do want to make a concrete suggestion, however, Mr. Chairman. I think that the Minister of Health and the First Minister both agreed with what has been suggested by a number of speakers, including myself, that nobody is living very high on the social allowances -- and I think we can all agree on that. I want to suggest Mr. Chairman, that while the First Minister made a very reasoned defence of the government's policy, and in principle there's much to be said for his argument, only the people who are not getting the increase are not going to understand the philosophical argument. They're going to be faced with the very concrete fact that from their point of view they're not getting five cents more than they were before. Secondly, I want to suggest what I said before, that nobody is going to have very much to spend to buy the basic necessities they have to buy with this personal allowance on either \$5.00 a month or \$10.00 a month, and I am going to suggest Mr. Chairman -- not that they're entitled -- I don't want to get into this argument that they're entitled by law or even in principle to the entire \$10.00, because I don't know where that would lead us -- but I am going to suggest Mr. Chairman, that the government look at the regulations. It's true that the reason they're not getting any increase at all is that the regulations have already said how much they are entitled to get; but surely in the regulations there is a provision which says that they shall beget for personal comforts, \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month. And I am going to suggest to the government that they look at that particular regulation and give consideration to changing that regulation so that instead of either \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month that they be entitled to an increase of \$5.00, call it what you want, to a basic minimum of \$10.00 or \$15.00 a month. Now I think it was said that we have something in the neighbourhood of 4,000 people in institutions, and if that's so, this would cost us \$20,000 a month or \$240,000 a year. And I don't know Mr. Chairman how this province could spend a quarter of a million dollars better than to increase that personal allowance by \$5.00 a month, and I want to suggest to the government that between now and time when we come to the Minister's estimates that they give consideration to an increase of \$5.00 a month for personal comforts to people in institutions.

MR. E. GUTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Chairman, members of the government side without exception have implied by their remarks that the increase granted by the federal government isn't necessary because it is subscribed to the theory of the federal government that the old age pensioners of Canada required an additional \$10.00 increase, then there is rank discrimination, because some of the old age pensioners are going to get it and others are not. Take for instance a man who was getting \$55 a month on old age security. Take the case of another man who was getting \$55 a month old age security plus \$10.00 from the Social Allowances Act. They both are getting now \$65 a month, whereas there was \$10.00 difference before, now both men get an increase of \$10.00 but the one man who was getting social allowance is on the same standard as the man who wasn't getting it -- they're both getting \$65 a month. In other words, there is no increase for certain people. And where is the money going then? The \$10.00 paid out of social allowances to this pensioner is not being paid by the government, and consequently the Provincial Treasury is benefitting by \$10.00. In another case -- (Interjection) . Yes it is. Where does that \$10.00 go then that that man was getting? (Interjection) Look at the estimates. That pensioner isn't getting it. The federal government is subsidizing it. Any man who gets social allowance of \$10.00 or more is being discriminated by this government because -- (Interjection) -- yes he is, because they're taking \$10.00 less from him that he was getting before.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I suppose we're discriminating him by giving him a social allowance,

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd)eh?

MR. GUTTORMSON: No I didn't say that. (Interjection) No I didn't. You can twist the words as you like. (Interjection) You gave a man, you thought this man should have got social allowance and you gave it to him. But when the federal government gives everybody an increase because they feel that increase is justified you don't let the man who was getting social allowance before get that social allowance any longer. You deduct it from him. (Interjection) The way it works. Sure it's the way it works and this government can't deny it that there is rank discrimination. Some of the pensioners are getting the increase and others are not.

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Chairman, (interjection), I may not be too well qualified to speak on this, but it is evident from some of the debates that I'm not the only one. We've had some very odd lessons in simple arithmetic today. The last one we listened to was incredible -- yes, that's the word. Mr. Chairman, I just got up to draw the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to some, what I consider and I think many of us over here consider to be, some constructive and responsible opposition and to suggest that he had better take a look at it, along with members of his party, or he stands in great danger of having the Leader of the NDP take over in Manitoba --(Interjection), because -- no wedding at all, no wedding at all -- because the New Democratic Party's philosophy is somewhat different from ours. But they are honest and they have a right, they have a right on this occasion to stand up in the Legislature of Manitoba and take issue with the government because we are not increasing the standard of social allowance, but that is a rough right that is not enjoyed by the Liberal Party. Not on the basis of what they did as a government, but on the basis of what they are doing today in Manitoba, because any party that spends their time outside of this House running around the Province of Manitoba telling the people of this province that this is a spend-thrift government and one that is bound to land the province in deep financial trouble because of our expenditures in the public sector on education and welfare and so on, they have no right to stand up in this legislature and pretend to be the protectors of the less fortunate in our society, when in order to follow their admonitions we would have to expend more money.

Now this party is the party of facing both ways and I cannot help but believe that a great deal of the criticism that they are directing against the government here today, and in other debates, has been tongue in cheek-- it has been with tongue in cheek, because they couldn't possibly believe what they are saying. I think we had the best evidence, concrete evidence of this, Mr. Chairman, today when the Member for St. Boniface got up and requested a standing vote so they could get off the hook. That's all he wanted to do was get the party off the hook; they wanted to have a nice standing vote so they could go to the public who were interested in seeing increased care and say "we voted for it", but they wouldn't have to take the responsibility of voting for the measures that made it possible. He has given concrete evidence of the kind of opposition that they are giving and the kind of service they are giving to the people of the Province of Manitoba. (Interjection) Yes it does. It scares me. (Interjection) I can't help but remember the story Mr. Chairman, of the boy who was sent out to look after the sheep, and these men here in a sense have a job of standing guard for the people of Manitoba. But the boy in the story thought he'd have a little fun and he sent up a great cry about a wolf, and everybody came running, and when they got there he laughed and laughed, because there wasn't any wolf, and so the men were very angry and they went away -- I'm going to tell this story in detail because they apparently have forgotten -- (Interjection) and they went away very angry and the boy thought he'd have a little more fun, so he set up a great hue and cry again and he yelled "wolf, wolf, wolf", and the men all came running, and the boy laughed and laughed and laughed -- he'd had a great deal of sport -- and the men became angrier and angrier and so they went away. And then the wolf did come. And what happened? Do you remember the story? Nobody paid any attention to the boy and he was devoured. And this is exactly what will happen, because if I may draw an analogy -- there is the boy in the story (Interjection) there's the boy in the story, and when the day does come, as surely it must, that this government, as all governments in history have done, make some important mistakes (Interjection) - the people aren't going to pay any attention to the boy, because they have told the people so often --(Interjection). Yes, but remember the boy was devoured Mr. Chairman and in this case the boy is going to be devoured again. (Interjection) This is particularly appropriate to this occasion, because the Liberal Party of Manitoba could not possibly, in all honesty, believe what it is saying here today. They couldn't possibly believe

(Mr. Hutton, cont'd) . . . what they are saying here today. They are suggesting that the people of Manitoba should provide moneys to provide above the necessities of life, whether they can afford it or not. They are almost in favour of some measure of discrimination here in a sense; in a sense they are in favour of a measure of discrimination. They are suggesting that no matter what a man's income is if he's ever had the social allowance he should continue to get it. This is what they have said. They cannot share at all in the argument, in the points of argument that the leader of the NDP has put forth. He has put forth what I would call a legitimate, or a valid argument, and it's a question of what the people of Manitoba can afford to give to the less fortunate in our society, and he says that we can afford to give more - (Interjection) That's a legitimate argument for him to bring and while on the basis of his performance on behalf of the public of Manitoba, the people will believe him, and the people will believe his followers. But these arguments that have been put forward by the Liberal Party today just won't hold water, and they can only be made coming from them by a party that is facing both ways. As I have said, you have had a concrete example, concrete evidence of their position in this matter. They want to get off the hook even now. (Interjection)

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I hardly think I need to reply to the statements of the last speaker. His fairy tales speak for themselves. I think I would like to bring the debate back to its original point Mr. Chairman. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside that this Committee is of the opinion that every person in receipt of the federal old age security pension or of old age assistance should receive the full increase provided by the federal government in its recent change in pensions; and further that the Government of Manitoba should not reduce its contribution to the pensioners under the Social Allowances Act by virtue of the increase provided by the federal government.

MR. ROBLIN: I am afraid I must point out that the motion is out of order.

MR. MOLGAT: On what grounds?

MR. ROBLIN: It's a financial motion, it can only be introduced on a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. MOLGAT: Then I shall amend it and say that this Committee is of the opinion that the House should give consideration to the advisability of it.

MR. PAULLEY: I believe a motion of this nature would be a debatable motion even in the Committee that we're sitting in at the present time. But first of all, I think that it would only be fair to the members of the House to be given an ample opportunity to consider the motion as presented by the Leader of the Opposition. Because it appears to me just listening to my honourable friend, and then even after he had presented the motion, a suggested amendment was made by his legal advisor the Honourable Member for Lakeside which may have changed the complex of the motion considerably.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to interrupt here but I think the Chairman would have to put the motion would he not and then debate it?

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Chairman, I don't think so, I'm speaking on a point of privilege. (Interjection).

MR. MOLGAT: On a point of privilege?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. (Interjection) A point of order, perhaps. Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman in all due respect to my honourable young friend. (Interjection) Well, it might be new to you. You've been in this House just as long as I have, but I think in some respects I've learned a little. I would say - (Interjection) - yes, that's debatable my honourable friend, and I admit it, and I'm prepared to debate even that question. (Interjection) I think it would be very good. I think I have a point of privilege as a member of this House, Mr. Chairman, not a point of order, but a point of privilege, to give me the opportunity as a member of this House to thoroughly consider the proposition that is placed before us -- and I think that's privilege and not order. (Interjection) I beg your pardon. (Interjection) It was announced by my honourable friend and I raise it as a point of privilege before the Chairman of this Committee places it before us for our consideration. I think it would be a little late for me to raise it on a point of privilege, after the Chairman has placed the motion before us. I think that this is only fair and reasonable. As I mentioned, we have been debating here all afternoon the question of an increase in old age social security; we've all (Interjection - I wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether my honourable friend, the Member for LaVerendrye would abide with the simple rules

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) of the House, that if he wishes to raise a point of order, it is first necessary for him to rise from his seat and state it.

MR. ROBLIN: Would my honourable friend allow me the privilege of making a comment here if I may interrupt him. It's on a point of order. That is, I think we're in a rather difficult position because we haven't, as I read the rules, I think it is difficult for my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition to present a motion at this stage, because in Committee of Supply we're usually dealing with resolutions that are before us which can be moved and dealt with in the regular way. Now it's 5:30, we can consider this over the dinner hour, but I would like to suggest this. I think it may be that my honourable friend has proposed this amendment, this motion in response to some suggestion from elsewhere that he might do so. I must point out to him that I really don't think that there is any possibility of his introducing a motion because our position at the moment is slightly irregular. We might talk with the Honourable Member for Lakeside on this. But I think it would be advisable -- we've had a discussion of opinion, we know where everybody stands -- it would be advisable if the motion were not proposed, and then when we come to the Welfare Department or the correct way of doing it, we can then have the motion. But I would say this that if my honourable friends opposite are not willing to take that point of view, I would ask the Chairman to take the matter under consideration during the dinner hour because I propose to suggest that it is not in order to introduce it at the moment.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, I have no objection to this being considered during the dinner hour. I am sorry I missed the point that my honourable friend was making with regards to my having received this from elsewhere. I can assure him, I don't know what he meant. However, I have no objection whatever to having this sit over. My honourable friends across the way wanted us to propose some constructive matters; they've been chiding us about our job in the opposition. We are proposing something constructive and we're prepared to vote on it. (Interjection)

MR. ROBLIN: As far as I'm concerned I would be delighted to have a vote, but I think we must check the question of the rules. I don't think that it is possible to do it in the way my honourable friend suggests. There may be other ways. For example, tomorrow on the resolution to go into Committee of Supply. There is absolutely nothing to prevent one of the honourable gentlemen over there who haven't spoken, to introduce an amendment, as far as I can see, to give effect to the expression of opinion that they wish to place upon the record. But without wishing -- and I hope that you will believe when I say that I really think this is out of order in this particular Committee at this particular moment. I'll be glad to consult with others, Mr. Chairman probably too, but it seems to me that we should do our best to stay within the rules if we can.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my view on the point of order that has been raised. I can see the point which the Honourable the First Minister is making, in my opinion without very logical grounds, because I think that we're perfectly in order in proposing a resolution of this kind, because this is the very matter that by unanimous consent we have spent the most of the afternoon on. Now it was true, it was raised on the motion to go into the Committee of Supply, but once we were in the Committee of Supply, it was unanimously agreed to that this question should be discussed; and goodness knows, surely it's good business in having spent the whole afternoon discussing it that we might try to bring ourselves to some conclusion, and therefore this motion is proposed, I would suggest that it's perfectly in order.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, might I ask this of yourself as Chairman or the Clerk of the Assembly, or possibly the Leader of the Opposition, if he has a copy, I would like to have made available to me for my consideration and that of my group, a copy of the motion as presented by him in order that we may fully consider the whole matter as proposed by my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm prepared to give this consideration during the dinner hour and make a report when we are re-assembled. I call it now 5:30 and leave the Chair till 8:00 o'clock.

MR. MOLGAT: I have no copies, I wrote this a few moments ago on foolscap here. We'll have to get copies made.

MR. ROBLIN: will you give us a copy. We'd like to have one. (Interjection) I think if you were to take the original, because it's not been accepted by the Chairman, and you

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd) could make copies of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to have something to study

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the Clerk of the House make copies under your direction and distribute them to the interested parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will we rise now?

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, we'll have copies made.