

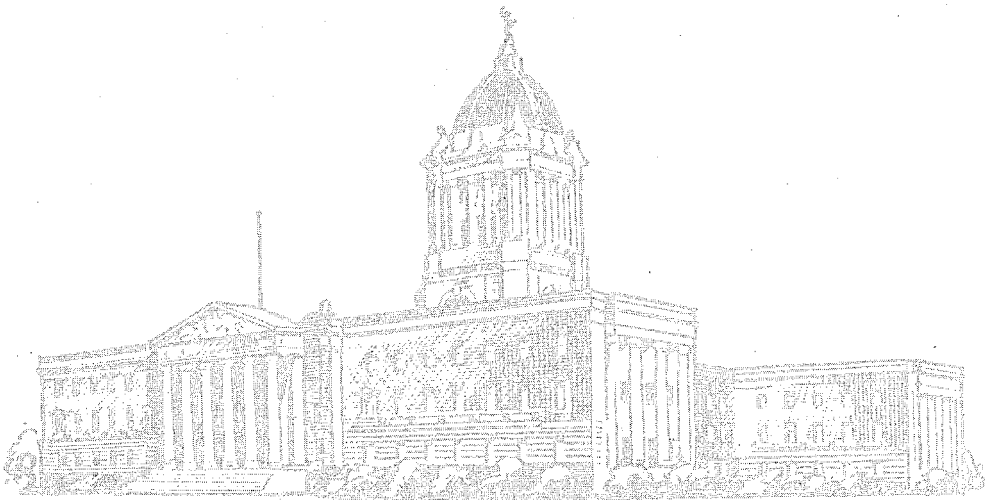


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Thursday, March 1st, 1962.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before 5:30 we had before us a resolution presented by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I gave careful consideration to it during the dinner hour and this is my ruling on the matter: That inasmuch as by unanimous consent we allowed a full discussion after the House went into Committee of Supply, I am prepared, subject to the same unanimous consent to receive the motion of the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBLIN: I'll be glad to give that consent, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, before . . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Leader of the Opposition, moved by Mr. Molgat that this Committee is of the opinion that the House should give consideration to the advisability of every person in receipt of 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 the Government of Manitoba should not reduce its contributions to pensioners under the Social Allowances Act by virtue of the increase provided by the Federal Government.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may speak before you put the question, I would like to move an amendment to this resolution because while I haven't a copy of it before me, just listening to your reading of it, Sir, it seems to be -- I was going to say ridiculous, but that's probably an unparliamentary expression -- it does seem to be a kind of odd resolution. First of all, it leaves out blind pensions and it does state some facts which are not correct. I think the Leader of the Opposition is behaving, Mr. Chairman, rather like the boy in the story that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture was telling before dinner, and I rather suspect that while they were chuckling heartily at the story that perhaps the joke was on them. His resolution states that the pensions are being reduced to these people on pension. This is, of course, not the case. These pensions -- the disability pension, the blind persons' pension and the old age assistance pension, are contractual agreements between the federal government and the provincial government and we have passed all the necessary orders-in-council, and we have, in fact, sent out the first of the increased cheques as at the 28th of February, and we are not in any way taking any of this increased pension away from any person. Everyone who is entitled to the pension under the terms of the agreements between the federal government and the provincial government in these three categories, are receiving every nickel to which they are entitled -- we are not touching that whatsoever. The Attorney-General, this afternoon I think, pointed out that under the law we had to review the cash allowances which we were paying to people in receipt of social allowances and where the new income reflects a change they will be receiving an amended social allowance cheque. In some cases this may be as much as \$10.00 less, but in not all cases will it be such. Now, the agreements, as I have stated, are matters which we cannot change or which we wouldn't want to change, because they are agreements between the federal government and the provincial government so the people. -- I want to make this perfectly clear -- everyone is receiving their \$10.00. Now it's true in institutions, the people are going to receive their \$65.00 a month again, the full amount of the pension, and we will be paying the difference and including the allowance for personal needs, which comes from the social allowances cheque -- let me reiterate that fact very firmly. This \$5.00 doesn't come from the pension, it comes from the social allowance cheque. Now it's quite true that there may be some administrative machinery within the institution where it would appear that the \$5.00 is coming out of the pension cheque -- but this is not the case, Sir. That \$5.00 is coming out of the social allowances grant which we make. We meet the payment necessary to the institution in whatever portion the individual is unable to pay and we pay a further \$5.00 a month. Now this resolution too would, besides all its other faults, be very discriminatory, because what would happen to the person who applied for social allowance tomorrow who was now living in their home and had to go into an institution or had to come to us for social allowances. We would be judging them on the basis of their new income, which is \$65.00 a month, and we would be meeting their needs, whatever they happen to be, over and above that amount, so they would in effect be receiving \$10.00 less than the person that was enrolled prior to this date. This is just how ridiculous, Sir, the amendment is. The Leader of the NDP shows remarkable perception -- he understands

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . . completely the dilemma, or the question, that is before the House, and the dilemma I should say is only in the minds of the Liberal Party, it's not in anybody else's mind. The only way that you could put more money into the people would be to amend the regulations under The Social Allowances Act -- this is the only way it can be done.

Now as we have pointed out earlier in this interesting discussion, we have these regulations continually under review -- we are always trying to reflect the will of the Legislature as it was expressed in The Social Allowances Act. To this end we have early in February made some amendments to the social allowances regulations, and they permit us to pay a slightly increased social allowance in certain specific cases. Now, there is one place where the allowance for personal needs was increased -- the staff had found in their work in the field, that where a person was living in a boarding home, other than with relatives, that the \$5.00 was not sufficient in nearly every case to meet their personal needs because they had to supply themselves with such things as towels, soap and all the minor necessities which are usually part of the home if they're living with relatives or which are provided in an institution, and in this particular case the personal needs benefit was raised slightly. So this, then, is the crux of the question: whether or not the regulations under the Act should be amended, and I think that all reasonable people in the House can agree with the amendment, Sir, that I would like to propose -- that the resolution of the Leader of the Opposition -- I would like to move, Sir, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, "that the resolution of the Leader of the Opposition be amended by striking out all of the words after the word "that" in the first line thereof and substituting therefor the following - "This Committee re-affirms its support for the basic principles of The Social Allowances Act which was enacted with the unanimous support of the House and is further of the opinion that consideration should be given to the advisability of reviewing regulations insofar as these relate to the standards of need."

Mr. Chairman presented the motion.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'll have to ask for a copy of the amendment, if I may, and also a copy of our original motion as presented to the Committee. We are unable to discuss this fully without having those two -- this may have been changed somewhat -- there are two "thats" in the first . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'm not ready for the question. I think, in view of the fact that my honourable friend had the dinner recess in which to discuss our resolution, I would suggest that we be given some time to discuss the amendment proposed by my honourable friend or that the matter be allowed to stand. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, but I can hardly discuss this and at the same time analyze what this amendment means -- that's the only difficulty. Oh, if my friends find this so funny, that's fine by me.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: It wasn't the remarks of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that was funny.

MR. MOLGAT: That's quite all right. If that's what you want to do with this resolution of ours now -- play games with it -- that's your affair -- that's fine. I have no objection to that at all. Get up and make a speech on the subject and my colleagues can discuss it in the meantime. My honourable friends have been trying to confuse the issue all afternoon. They are proceeding, once again on this amendment to confuse the issue. The whole point, in spite of the jumps one way and that by my honourable friends across the way, is simply this. The Minister himself, here in the House, in reply to a question on Tuesday of this week, said that the cash allowances to people in receipt of old age assistance would be reduced. This was his statement, and this reduction, Mr. Chairman, is the result of an increase in the old age pension by the federal government in Ottawa, and that is our basic objection on this item. The further one, that they are reducing the contributions that they are making towards the rent of people who are living in accommodations in various parts of the province and who they have been supporting under the Social Allowances Act. That is the long and the short of the discussion. Now my friends can vary our resolution all they want -- the Minister can get up and say it's ridiculous if he likes -- that's his privilege. The Minister of Agriculture can read fairy tales to us if he likes, but the fact still comes back to this -- that the federal government has increased the pension by \$10.00. What we are asking for, quite simply, is that every Manitoban receive that \$10.00 increase in pension and that there be no reductions to him in the assistance which he was getting

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . . before that from other sources. It's as simple as that. My honourable friends have taken us off into all sorts of directions -- they've talked about their Social Allowances Act -- that isn't the point under discussion. The point is very, very simple. Just this -- we want that \$10.00 pension increase to go to everyone, and I think it's a perfectly legitimate and perfectly sound request.

Let us assume an individual who came to the government and said: "I cannot live on the \$55.00 a month I receive." The government proceeded, under the Social Allowances Act to analyze the income, the expenses, the family conditions of that individual. They decided somewhere along the line to give that individual an increase -- let's assume that it's say \$20.00. My honourable friends, every one of them as I recall it today when they spoke, admitted that these increases were not too great. The ex-Minister of Health and Welfare, the present Minister of Health said himself in reply to a question, that he didn't think that they were too generous, that he would like to see them higher. -- (Interjection) -- Exactly -- that's the very point. That's exactly what we're discussing. -- (Interjection) -- But you are. Yes, you are. All right! So they were given say an extra \$20.00 -- fine. Now the federal government decides to increase the pension by \$10.00. There are a great number of people throughout this country who are going to receive that \$10.00 who do not need it, and we know that. We know that under the law that is everyone receives it. No one is going to pretend that everyone who is in receipt of that extra \$10.00 needs it. It isn't established on the base of need, it's a \$10.00 across-the-board increase. So a great number of people who are in no particular need for the increase will find themselves now in receipt of an extra \$10.00. Let's take on the other hand. An individual who could not get along on the basic amount, who was given an extra amount under The Social Allowances Act of this government -- and I don't criticize it, I agree with it, and I agree with the Minister of Health when he says we would all like to see it increased if our means would permit it -- he was given that extra amount -- and I repeat what my honourable friend said this afternoon that it wasn't too generous. And now when the federal government comes along with an extra \$10.00, those individuals don't get it, and that's the whole point of our discussion, that those individuals should benefit from that extra \$10.00 and get the extra \$10.00. And under the present rules and regulations, as I understand them, they will not get it. An individual who was receiving, for example, \$20.00 of social allowances, in other words receiving \$75.00, will still receive \$75.00 after this increase by the federal government. And we say he should receive that extra \$10.00 and receive \$85.00, and that is the long and short of the discussion. -- (Interjection) -- It isn't. All this stuff that you've been dragging out about The Social Allowances Act, it's simply the question of fact of that \$10.00. And by the admission of my honourable friend the Minister of Welfare himself, they're not going to get it. I'm not concerned about the Act. I'm concerned about these people who are not getting the increase that the federal government put through for them. If you lawyers, my honourable friend the Attorney-General, if you want to discuss technicalities in the Act you can go right ahead and do that, that's your privilege. All I'm saying is that the federal government has contributed an extra \$10.00 to every pensioner in our country, every single pensioner in Canada and that because of the decisions of this government a number of pensioners in this province are not getting that extra assistance. Now -- (Interjection) -- my honourable friend can wait. You'll have your time. He admitted himself that those on cash allowances would not be getting the full amount of cash allowances that they were before. In other words, I presume that someone receiving say \$20.00 of cash allowance will now receive \$10.00 of cash allowance and that his total income is going to be, instead of \$85.00 as we say it should be if he's receiving say a basic \$20.00, is going to simply stay where it is. He's not getting an increase. -- (Interjection) -- Sure, he's still getting his \$10.00, but he was getting it before. The federal government have proceeded to increase it and you people across the way are holding it back from him. -- (Interjection) -- Explain to me then how someone who is getting \$20.00 of social allowance on the basis of the old \$55.00, if he's going to receive \$10.00 more now, if he's going to receive \$85.00 instead of \$75.00 then that's fine, I'll be satisfied. But that's not the statement the Minister of Welfare made. And then you take the people who are presently being assisted in these various homes and I quoted this afternoon the statement by the Superintendent of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, where he clearly said that the rate, the living rate there in the residence is \$75.00. Until the recent pension increase the provincial government was paying \$30.00 -- \$30.00 out of \$75.00 that left \$45.00 for the old age pensioner to pay himself. He was

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . . getting, I presume, a \$55.00 cheque, which left him \$10.00 for his own resources. Now the federal government increases the pension to \$65.00, What happens is that my honourable friends across the way reduce their payments to the residents by \$10.00; the poor old age pensioner continues to receive exactly what he was receiving before. He's not receiving one cent more, and yet the federal government has just put through an increase of \$10.00 in the old age pensions. And that is simply the long and the short of the thing.

Now my friend can make all the amendments he wants to our resolution, the fact still remains there. We want to see this \$10.00 increase that the federal government has put through go to every single pensioner and let every single one of them get an additional \$10.00, and not the way my honourable friends are doing it now, where a goodly number of them will simply receive the same as they are receiving now.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I'm disappointed -- dismayed by this amendment. One would have thought that with the discussion we had this afternoon, one would have thought that with the expressions of sympathy which we had from the front benches this afternoon with the plight of the old age pensioners that we could have got something -- maybe not something that we could all agree on but something concrete, something specific, something but a piece of paper which the old age pensioners could understand. What is this amendment doing? To me it's obvious that all this amendment is doing is permitting the people on that side of the House not to be counted on the resolution which is presented by the Leader of the Opposition. The resolution which the Leader of the Opposition moves is a very specific one, and I'm not going to talk about that at the moment, I think we should dispose of this first. It's a very specific one. It's the intention of this House that the entire \$10.00 increase proposed by the federal government and concurred in by this government insofar as it has jurisdiction shall be passed on to the old age pensioner. People on that side of the House obviously don't want to be counted on that. They don't want to vote against it. There are a lot of votes involved in this I suppose, so they don't want to vote against it. So what are they doing? They propose an amendment. And what does the amendment say? It says the obvious, that this House reaffirms its support for the basic principles of The Social Allowances Act. And all the members in this House voted for it, of course. Are we going to now jettison it? Are we now going to change it and then -- (Interjection) -- You can get up and speak when I'm finished, although I don't mind, you can heckle if you want. -- (Interjection) -- I'm what?

MR. K. ALEXANDER (Roblin): You can't take it.

MR. ORLIKOW: I can take it, and I can hand it out, and I can stand here until you quit babbling, it's okay. So of course we're not going to agree to any basic change in the principles of The Social Allowances Act. Everybody agrees on that. And then what does it say, it says: "It is further of the opinion that consideration be given to the advisability of reviewing regulations insofar as these relate to the standards of need." Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister and his department officials weren't giving active, almost daily, consideration to changes in the regulations as the cost of living changes, they will be derelict in their duty. They don't need any instruction from this House to do it, they are doing it all the time. I presume they are doing it at least once a month when the Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues a new cost of living index. So they don't need that instruction from this House, they have that point of view. They know what they should be doing. What's at stake, Mr. Chairman, is a very simple question. The question is, will the people who are in the institutions -- some 4,000 of them -- will they get anything, will they get anything from the increase which is proposed by the federal government? That's the long and the short of it.

Now the First Minister made an excellent speech this afternoon when he explained the philosophy behind The Social Allowances Act. It was an excellent speech. It contained the essence of what was behind this, and when they talk about need, I follow it. The First Minister may not think that we agree with him, but basically I did. When they talk about the fact that this Act is unique and it's the only one in Canada and every other province is following it -- I think they're talking nonsense. I think they're talking for the record because the Act isn't much different than the Act in Ontario -- (Interjection) -- When I'm finished you can say anything you want. The Act isn't any different than the Act in Ontario. It isn't much different than the Act in Saskatchewan, and by some curious accident, Mr. Chairman, -- an accident, I wouldn't want to suggest that the Minister is trying to kid the public or kid this House -- but the regulations

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) . . . . setting out the amount to which people are entitled to, which were drafted first in Saskatchewan, first, by several years in Saskatchewan -- gave the people of Saskatchewan almost the same amount as the regulations in Manitoba. I don't want to say that we copied them, Mr. Chairman. It's just a curious accident which I leave to the members of the House to try to figure out how it happened. But all that's involved, Mr. Chairman, is the question of whether the people in the institutions are entitled to anything, to any increase, and I would have thought, Mr. Chairman, that the government would have come with some proposal in which they would specify some amount that the people in the institutions would be entitled to right now. Not sometime in the future after they've given -- what did Mr. Diefenbaker used to talk about -- parity prices, active or sympathetic consideration or something -- but right now so these people would know precisely what their situation would be. Now I might not have agreed. I suggested this afternoon \$5.00 a month, which I calculated to be about \$240,000.00. Now maybe the First Minister in his capacity as Provincial Treasurer wasn't prepared to agree to that amount, so he might have come in with something that suggested \$3.00 and somebody else might have suggested \$4.00. Had they come with something like that, Mr. Chairman, I for one would have been disposed to discuss the matter, and I for one would have been disposed to be reasonable and to be sympathetic, but -- (Interjection) -- Well, maybe it's a change, that could be. I don't apologize for the position I've taken. I think that the rightness and the wrongness will be settled somewhere else. But, Mr. Chairman, to come in with this kind of amendment which in my opinion is well -- I wonder what language I could use that would be parliamentary -- somebody says ridiculous. I was thinking about a weasel amendment -- but it's a kind of amendment, Mr. Chairman, which I think is an insult to the members of the House and I for one certainly have no intention of voting for this amendment.

MR. E. I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Chairman, in discussing the amendment it reminds me of a story about the proud mother whose son joined the army. Pardon me? -- (Interjection) -- No, no it isn't. -- (Interjection) -- The son after several weeks training, the unit to which he belonged came to the town and the mother, the proud mother, took her friends down to watch the son and the unit march, and going by she made the remark that all were out of step but my Johnny -- and it looks to me that somebody on the other side is out of step from this side -- because there are one or two basic things that I think of in listening to the debate this afternoon, and one was read the regulations as read by the Honourable the Attorney-General, in which he said that each one of these cases was individually reviewed each year. Now I ask you, Sir, as competent as the department is, is it possible that they reviewed each one of these cases within the last two, three or four weeks? In my opinion, Sir, it's impossible. They took the fact of \$10.00 and just grabbed it. The second city of Manitoba, Brandon, in tonight's Free Press points out exactly what we've been discussing today, and I would like to read it and put it on record. The headlines in the Press are: "The Alderman to Protest Government taking \$10.00 hike." "The council plans to take on the Manitoba Department of Welfare in an attempt to have them let old age pensioners keep all of the recently granted \$10.00 increase in old age security and assistance pensions. The provincial Welfare Department recently announced in a letter to the Director of Fairview Home that the province intends to collect \$55.00 of the \$65.00 federal old age pension paid to some 90 residents of Brandon Home for Elderly Citizens who are receiving a resident subsidy. The government up to now have collected \$45.00 from the old age pensioners who have no other income. Cost of a month's accommodation in Fairview Home is \$99.40. The provincial government has assumed responsibility for the fees of those dependent on the pension cheque, subsidized pensioners have kept only \$10.00 of their pension cheques for such personal things as clothing and tobacco. Under the new plan pensioners will still keep only \$10.00 but the provincial government's share of subsidizing pensioners will drop from \$54.90 to \$44.90. Council on the recommendation of the Fairview Home director will protest the move to the Welfare Minister, John Christianson, urging that all or at least part of the pension increase be granted to the pensioners as pocket money."

Mr. Chairman, I submit to you, that's been the argument on this side and by my party all afternoon. We want the old age pensioners to get the advantage of the federal contribution to old age pensioners.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I'm afraid we're going to have to increase the osmotic pressure on this side of the House pretty tremendously if we're going to get the story across to the members

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . . opposite. The only way -- (Interjection) -- the only way that the end set out by the Honourable Member from Turtle Mountain and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition can be accomplished is by a change in the regulations under The Social Allowances Act. There is no other way under the present laws of Manitoba to change the amount that you give to people who are presently in receipt of social allowances. You must change the regulations and that's precisely what the amendment says. The sub-amendment -- (Interjection) -- No, the amendment. The resolution which was so hastily drafted by the Leader opposite doesn't do what he wants it to do, it's as simple as that and -- where's that fellow gone again, the Member from St. John's -- he says that our amendment has no effect. Well, I suggest that he should read the original resolution because it has even less effect. -- (Interjection) -- It doesn't do what our friends opposite want them to do. We had to amend that resolution, it couldn't possibly be voted on in that vote because it didn't even do what they wanted it to do. He wants everybody -- (Interjection) -- the members opposite I think are pretty confused about the whole pension agreement. The only pension that's paid 100% by Ottawa is the Old Age Security pension paid to everyone over the age of 70. We pay 50% of the old age assistance, we pay 50% of the disabled persons pension and we pay 25% of the blind persons pensions -- and those \$10.00 increases have been put into effect and they have gone out to everyone on the books as of the 28th of February.

Now, with regard to the review that my friend mentioned, we haven't completed the review as yet, and during the month of February, at the end of February some people will be receiving extra cash, because we haven't completed the review of all the social allowances. There are some 9,256 as at the end of November receiving social allowances in these categories. This has not been completed; the staff has set up a time-table of overtime work in order to accomplish the instructions as laid out under the regulations and the Act -- the instructions of this House. Now, really, I'm just at a bit of a loss to understand what possible purpose, what possible use all the excitement is about because we're doing what we're supposed to do under the Act and our amendment says -- and believe me it's the only way that this can be accomplished is to change the regulations under that said Act. Now the members opposite all of a sudden, particularly the members of the Liberal Party, all of a sudden are desirous of raising pensions. Well I can only go back and say: "What was the situation before the Social Allowances Act came in?" The people were at the mercy -- although I shouldn't say that, that's an unjudicious word -- but the old age who were in need of assistance got it wherever they could -- from the municipality that they were living in or wherever else they could, and it's true that the provincial government shared 60% of the cost or 80% of it was over one mill. But we took that load off the municipalities and we set up the same scale all across Manitoba for everyone. We treated everyone alike. The other side effects of that resolution that was proposed is the discriminatory aspects of the thing because it doesn't treat everyone alike. And so I'm very disappointed that the Member for St. John's is so upset with our amendment because his leader was showing great leadership this afternoon when he -- (Interjection) -- Yes, and I would warn my friends on the Liberal benches to watch very closely because those fellows over there are breathing right down your necks.

You know, I heard a story the other night, Mr. Chairman. I was at a meeting and this fellow was talking about the Liberals and he said, "You know some of the Liberals complain because the Conservatives are going too fast and others complain because they are going too slow. One fellow couldn't make up his mind so they elected him Leader." So really we are at a loss to understand and I say again, I repeat the statement, if my friend will examine his resolution that he so hastily drew up this afternoon, he will find that it doesn't do what he wants to have done. It doesn't encompass that objective. Now had he taken considerable time and drawn it and made it so that it did encompass that the situation would be different. However, we moved our amendment because we believe it's the only way that this objective can be completely accomplished.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I certainly don't claim that the resolution that I presented this afternoon was completely correct in every way. I will even admit that grammatically some of it is not correct, because it was done hastily while here in the House. It was done frankly, after my honourable friend the Attorney-General got up and spoke and challenged us to stand up and be counted. Well, that's a fair arrangement. I'm prepared to stand up and be counted, and I'm prepared to give my honourable friends on the far side that same opportunity. And this is



(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . . the opportunity they have under this resolution -- to stand up and be counted, and where they stand on this matter. Now my honourable friend, the Minister of Welfare can run around the whole thing all he wants. If my resolution doesn't do exactly what I want it to do, I think if he checks -- (Interjection) -- just a moment -- if it doesn't do precisely, if I missed out the blind pensions, certainly I intended to include those. I didn't have the Statutes here with me when I drafted it. Those were meant to be included. Any changes that Ottawa is making. The intent of the resolution is quite clear and it's quite clear to every member on that far side. Everyone of them knows exactly what we mean by this resolution. They can bring out technicalities all they want, it doesn't change the intent of this and they know it.

The last part of my resolution I think clears up the matter quite clearly when I state that the Government of Manitoba should not reduce its contribution to pensioners under The Social Allowances Act by virtue of the increase provided by the federal government. That's quite straightforward and quite simple. My friend says it means a change in the Act. This is a recommendation from this committee to the House. If the House accepts it then the Act can be changed, and it's as simple as that. There's no problem in it. Just get down to the point. We want the \$10.00 that Ottawa is giving to go to the old age pensioner. It's as simple as that. This resolution does provide for that -- (Interjection) -- amendment to make it provide for that. You propose the amendment that will do that; you know what we want to do and we'll see to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I submit that the amendment is completely out of order. I submit that an amendment in order to be an amendment within our rules must be relevant to the main motion and must not negate the main motion. All that this amendment does is completely negate the main motion. It doesn't deal with one of the subject matters referred to in the main motion. It asks that it strike the whole motion out and leaves the word "that", and it asks us to "reaffirm the principle of The Social Allowances Act and to give consideration to amending the resolutions thereunder." And I submit, Mr. Chairman, by no stretch of the imagination can this amendment be considered or be ruled as being in order.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, points of order are always very interesting, and I think the one that's been raised now illustrates perhaps as clearly as can be, the, if I may express my opinion, the muddle-headed and the wrong-headed approach that characterizes the debate that has been led by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and his friend, to this question. Because what does the main motion do? The main motion strikes at the very root and principle of The Social Allowances Act. It would destroy it; it would absolutely negate the principle of The Social Allowances Act. I would like to just repeat that. It destroys the meaning of The Social Allowances Act because it departs from the principle of need. On one day of the week, need is being met by a payment from us, or let me say, an allowance which the person concerned gets, say of \$99.90. I maintain that that man's need hasn't changed the next day, but his income has. His income has gone up by \$10.00, therefore our payment on the basis of need goes down. I say to you, Sir, as clearly as I can, that the resolution offered strikes at the very root of The Social Allowances Act. That is why the amendment is necessary and that is why it is in order, because it refers to that principle which is involved in the main motion that is before us, and it is clear as can be. And I want to say this to the House, Sir, that if The Social Allowances Act, and the need principle was sound policy on Monday, it's sound policy on Tuesday, and I say that it is rather distressing to see that, as far as the Grit Party is concerned, if sound policy gets in the way of expediency, if sound policy gets in the way of opportunism, if sound policy gets in the way of . . . .

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Watch your blood pressure.

MR. ROBLIN: My blood pressure will take care of itself -- I've coped with bigger men and better men than the Honourable Member from St. George, but I'll admit that perhaps there's a good many that are in that category -- but however that may be, Mr. Chairman, I say to you that this policy that we are following on Monday is the right policy on Tuesday, and that is the policy that we intend to follow. It seems to me a rather sad thing -- we found out something -- this debate I regard as highly illuminating. I regard this debate as very instructive indeed, because it indicates to us and it indicates to the people of Manitoba, what kind of leadership we can now expect the Liberal Party to attempt to exercise in the public lists in this province. And

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . . It is obvious that it is not going to be a leadership that lets itself be embarrassed by sound policy. I say that if it was sound policy for the members opposite to vote for the Social Allowances Act in 1960 on the 16th day of July, unanimously, without a dissenting voice, with all the principles that are in it to this day that they are objecting to -- it's sound policy today.

I want to say to my honourable friend and he knows it so well, that the law instructs us to do what we have done and I don't think that we should be subject to the kind of criticism we have for carrying out the spirit and the purpose and the intent of this Act according to law -- that's what we have done. The need principle that is embodied in The Social Allowances Act is still there, and we're going to take our stand on this particular matter of need. My honourable friend now can go to the public of Manitoba and say: "Look what I did for you." He can go to the public of Manitoba and he can get his name in the papers and in other places by saying to the old age pensioners: "Look, I stood up for you." Well, it's a pretty belated conversion because he didn't stand up for them in the seven or eight years that he was over here on the other side of the House when he and his friends were in office. He didn't stand up for them then. He only stood up when The Social Allowances Act -- well, he didn't even do that because if I read the list he wasn't even in the House that night. But others in his Party stood up for the old age pensioners when the Social Allowances Act was introduced by this government -- that's the first time I can recall them doing so. I know that when we came into office we said: "What about this business of having the municipalities do it? Let's see how many old pensioners we can find that are taken care of, on this needs basis, by the municipalities to which we are assisting." Well, Sir, we searched pretty hard but we couldn't find very many, but there are thousands of them today. And while I can understand the entirely natural and human reaction of men and women who are on social allowances when they are in the situation that we are in today -- I think that those who take a little time to think about it will see that this is not so unjust. Because what happened? We didn't give them that \$10.00 when the federal government came through with it -- we gave it to them years ago -- we gave it to them long before -- we gave it to them as soon as that need was recognized. We are not taking it away because we are still recognizing need and the same amount of money is being made available for this purpose, and I say, as I said this afternoon, that when it is clear that additional sums are needed in order to meet the standards of need that have been accepted, then those sums of course will be made available in due course as they should be. But for my honourable friends to come in now and say "chuck out the need principle" -- to say "forget about the fact that we're dealing with all these people on an individual basis, just let them have the money, because it's good politics for us to stand up here and say let's have the money."

MR. MOLGAT: Who gave them the \$10.00 and for what purpose? Your friends in Ottawa.

MR. ROBLIN: Whatever my friends in Ottawa may have done, it was on a par with some other things that were done. At least it was a little bit more than the \$6.00 that was given by my honourable friend's friends when they were in Ottawa. -- (Interjection) -- We gave it to them long before because we deal on the basis of need. Listen to the jackals howl! Listen to them yap over there! Listen to them go to town because they think they're on something good. They say: "Now we'll go to the people -- we'll redeem ourselves from all this miserable record that we've been trailing around in two general elections" when they've been beaten we'll trail that -- "We won't be able to trail that any more -- we'll be able to get over that. We'll be able to say we stood up and we told those heartless people that they should have the \$10.00."

Well, I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the principle of The Social Allowances Act is sound.

MR. GUTTORMSON: We're not debating that.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes you are.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Oh no we're not.

MR. ROBLIN: You most certainly are.

MR. GUTTORMSON: You're taking away the \$10.00 and you know it.

MR. ROBLIN: My honourable friend knows, particularly that one that's so . . . . .

MR. GUTTORMSON: Yeah.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . . vociferous over there -- the one that . . . . .

MR. GUTTORMSON: Poor little fellow.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, he says "Yeah", and all that sort of thing. He has a good time. The

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . . idea of debate that some members of this House have is a little bit on the primitive level. However that may be. We're going to stick to our principle because we think it's sound. What was sound policy on Monday is sound policy on Tuesday and we're not going to allow the vote-getting temptations of this particular situation to deflect us from what we believe it is right to do. Now no one will ever pretend that we can be satisfied with matters of social policy of this sort because they always need to be reviewed, and they always have to be kept up-to-date, but the fact is that what was sound policy one day is still sound policy the next, and just because an opportunity arises which some people think -- and I excuse the CCF from this comment -- I'm sorry, the New Democratic Party -- from this comment entirely -- but some people think they see an opportunity to exploit a situation. They see an opportunity that maybe they can curry a little favour with certain groups in the community -- so much the worse for principle if it gets in the way -- so much the worse for the policy and the Act that they all voted for if it gets in the way of their making a little political capital on it. Well, Sir, I think that's a pretty unsatisfactory way to do business.

I want to say this, I don't think, he may stand up and contradict me now because I may be putting him on the spot -- but I don't think the Honourable Member for Lakeside, when he was Leader of the Party, would have adopted quite the same attitude. I think he may have been critical of us, I think he may be critical of this government over here, that's his right, but I don't think he would have taken his criticism in the particular form that's been presented here tonight, because he understands the difference, I think, between policy and what may be expedient on the occasion. He may get up in a few minutes and disappoint me sadly with something that he has to say, but I think myself that if the traditions of the Liberal Party as a responsible group in this House and in the country had been considered carefully, that they perhaps would have couched their criticism in a little different way. The criticism that was made by the CCF Party on the question of standards is another thing altogether, though I know that they're not going to look upon us with any favour later on tonight, just the same I must admit that that's a sound basis of argument. But when the government is carrying out the intent of the law that was passed with the full consent of this House, when the government increases social allowances as need arises without any hullabaloo about it, without any waving our hats in the air, by examining the case when the man moves into the nursing home we give it to him, when his needs increase he gets it, when the expense side goes up we take care of things -- and we think that when the income side goes up we have a right to take that into account. It's mandatory in the legislation; it's sound policy; it's a good principle, and I don't think that for the sake of a momentary political little flourish that we should depart from it.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I've remained silent thus far this evening, but I think it's time that I had something to say in this connection.

May I first of all say that I cannot support the amendment as proposed by the government. I say this, Sir, in all honesty and sincerity. I had hoped that if there was to be any amendment from the government at all, that that amendment would have said that we should give consideration to increasing rather than just reviewing the present regulations. I say that, Sir, based on comments that were made from the other side of the House. As my honourable friend, the Member for St. John's, so correctly pointed out, I think, Mr. Chairman, a few moments ago, that in essence the amendment only does reiterate what is in the Act and what we know is the duty of the government at the present time.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I've had the honour of being a public representative in one category or another since 1945 -- first as mayor of my town, and following that, as a member of this Legislature -- and while I know that at all times I have not been right, I have always tried to be politically honest -- honest not only with my philosophies -- honest with myself. I've made propositions in this House that have been rejected by the former Liberal government, propositions that have been thrown out by the government of today, and I will be making propositions, if I'm still in this House, for a while yet, based what I think is on political and moral honour. I am prepared at all times to have those thoughts of mine severely criticized and condemned and opposed, and I respect it. But it does seem to me that at least in some stages of this debate that has taken place this afternoon and this evening, some of the principles that I have adopted personally have been cast aside. I fear, Mr. Chairman, that there are some, possibly within this House, who are endeavouring to use this present impasse solely for political purposes in an

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . . . appeal to the emotions of the people of Manitoba, particularly those people who are unfortunate enough to be in a position where social assistance is necessary. As I stated this afternoon, I think that the allowances under our Social Assistance Act are inadequate. I think that our old age security pension as amended at the present time to \$65.00 is inadequate. As my colleague from Inkster this afternoon said to this House, we have before us for the consideration of this House an appeal to this House, which includes all parties in the House and not simply the government, to join with us in an appeal to the Government of Canada to increase still further the basic old age security pension from \$65.00 to \$75.00. I have already said this afternoon that if we total the amounts that are paid now under social allowances to individuals or to families, we come far in excess in many instances, of the pensions that are being asked by all the political parties in Canada today. At the present time the Liberal Party of Canada have jumped on the band wagon and are asking for a pension of \$75.00 -- a universal pension. We of the New Democratic Party, and previous to that the CCF Party, had requested an old age security pension of \$75.00 at the age of 65. The Social Credit Party, if I recall correctly, have stated in respect of old age security, that it should be at least \$100.00 per month. So we have all of this, but I say this, Mr. Chairman, until such time as we get down to a firm basis, that what we have at the present time in our Social Allowances Act must be retained and must be maintained. I agree with the first part of the amendment as proposed by the Minister of Welfare that this committee reaffirm its support for the basic principles of the Social Allowances Act, and I think this committee does -- or at least it should, under present circumstances, and the amendment does state and accurately so that this Act receive the unanimous support of this House. This was a change, as has been pointed out, a great change from the former system of social allowances or relief, or call it whatever you will, that was the system here in the Province of Manitoba before the Social Allowances Act was passed. Ever since the first day that I came into this Legislature as a member, and being elected in 1953, I criticized and condemned the former administration, because they had a hodge-podge system of relief administered by our municipalities where a person who was in unfortunate circumstances had to go -- figuratively speaking, if not actually -- with his cap in his hand to his municipal council begging for relief. I know that to be true, Sir, because notwithstanding the fact that I didn't like it, I had to accept it in my own town when I was in municipal office. And notwithstanding our arguments from this side of the House then -- and at that time we were only five in numbers -- of a change, the former administration in Manitoba refused our pleas, and no matter how much urging we made, it fell on deaf ears. I do not, as I have been accused of on many occasions, support the administration opposite. But, Mr. Chairman, when the sun comes up in the dim dawn after a dark, dark night, we appreciate it -- and that is what's happened. And while I say and reiterate, I don't support the Conservative administration, I do give them credit for some things that they have done, and in this field of social allowances they have given us great advances in the Province of Manitoba -- and when I say "us", I'm thinking principally of those people who require aid.

But, Mr. Chairman, as I said, I cannot support the amendment as proposed because it is not specific, because it does not say in addition to the fact that we have this authority -- indeed, it is not only a question of authority, it's actually a directive, to take these matters under consideration, but merely reiterating the opinion that consideration should be given to the advisability of reviewing it. I think had the amendment said: "We will give consideration to increasing", or "We will increase", then it could have been acceptable to me. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I can't go along with parts of the main motion either, because I do not think that it substantiated what I believe to be my principles of political honesty, and feel that it should be rejected, at least in part. So, Mr. Chairman, I suggest an amendment to the amendment, and I'm sorry that I've just written it out -- I haven't copies available at the present time -- but I would suggest this for your consideration and the consideration of the members of the House, that if after I have stated it it is worthy of consideration, if necessary that we call an adjournment or at least a suspension of the business of the committee for, say, a period of 10 to 15 minutes to give consideration to it, that that be done. And I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, that the amendment be amended by deleting all of the words after the word "Act" in the second line, and adding the following: "and that this committee is of the opinion that the House should give consideration to the advisability of every person in receipt of federal

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . . . aid, old age security pension, old age assistance, and blind and disability pension, receive the full increase provided by the federal and provincial governments in their recent changes in pension."

It would then read: "This committee reaffirms its support for the basic principles of The Social Assistance Act and this committee is of the opinion the House should give consideration to the advisability of every person in receipt of federal old age security pension, old age assistance and blind and disability pensions, receive the full increase provided by the federal and provincial governments in recent changes in the pensions."

Mr. Chairman read the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

MR. ROBLIN: May I ask my honourable friend a question by way of elucidation? Does this sub-amendment mean that the pensioner receives the full amount of the federal pension including the increase which, of course, he does at the present time, after the new pension comes in -- that is the fact, he gets the full amount of the federal pension. But as things stand at present the provincial social allowance contribution varies according to need. Now is the suggestion that he should get the full amount of the federal pension, \$65.00, and no change whatsoever in the social allowance that was previously paid before the \$10.00 increase went in? Is that the import of the sub-amendment? Well, in that case, Sir, I must say that I don't think we should accept it because it contradicts the first part of the resolution, namely that we approve The Social Allowances Act. If we approve The Social Allowances Act, then, of course, we are approving the principle of need, and yet the second part of the resolution ignores the principle of need, so I think it's contradictory. It doesn't represent our policy and I don't think we can support it.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I can understand members opposite and the government voting against this amendment which we have proposed and voting against the original resolution which was proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, because in their opinion The Social Allowances Act, which they designed, meets all the needs of the people involved. I want to say this, that I would feel a good deal more happy that it did, a good deal more confident that it did, if they had moved since they first enacted the Act to proclaim those sections of the Act which they said would be covered, which we had no indication of until today, will ever be enacted, at least in the lifetime of any of the members here. But I would understand if they would vote against it, and that makes sense; but I cannot see, Mr. Chairman, any reason at all except the one I suggested earlier, the one that they don't want to be counted as opposing this \$10.00 increase, for that amendment, because the amendment, the original amendment as proposed by the Honourable Minister of Welfare, because that is completely superfluous unless, unless they have been derelict in their duties which they have as a government, of keeping this under constant observation, because if they're doing that there's no need for the amendment. They simply say to the people of Manitoba, "We have an Act; it provides for the needs of the people, therefore the people are not entitled to this increase which the federal government is proposing," or is it "because we have already given it to them and therefore we vote against it?" So I can understand that, Mr. Chairman.

Now what about our amendment? I don't think that our amendment touches the principles of The Social Allowances Act at all, and that's what the members of this House voted for. We voted for the principles of The Social Allowances Act. We did not vote -- to my knowledge we were never asked to vote to approve the regulations and certainly we were never asked to approve the regulations which the First Minister tells us tonight for the first time -- I'm not being critical; of course, the regulations need to be changed as various factors of cost change. But we were never asked to approve them. In fact we were never informed until tonight that they were changed. So to say that if we, in this amendment, were talking about the principles of the Act and were suggesting that they be changed, is completely erroneous, and I say it's nonsense. What we're saying, and I think that we've tried, considering that we're dealing with this whole question on rather short notice -- we've tried to deal with this honestly and realistically. We say tonight, as we have said all along, that we agree with the basic principles of The Social Allowances Act, which are that the needs, that the wants of the people shall be met on the basis of need, but the particular amounts are certainly matters which need to be given a good deal of consideration. The particular amounts are certainly matters which will change as various costs

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) .go up and, on top of that I want to suggest -- and I hope the First Minister is not suggesting that having arrived at a standard in 1960 that that's all the people receiving social assistance will ever be able to expect, because after all I think, I hope that the economy of Canada is going to continue to grow. I hope that the total wealth of this country is going to continue to grow and if that is so, then certainly the people who are receiving social allowances are entitled to a constantly increasing standard. Now, all we're saying in this amendment, as I understand it, is that while we agree with the basic principles of The Social Allowances Act, that we take the opportunity of this \$10.00 increase which is proposed by the federal government to give a one-shot bonus to the people in the institutions -- a one-shot bonus of \$10.00. It doesn't mean that whatever happens in the future that this government or any other government is bound to do the same thing again. It means nothing at all. All it says is that for this time only, we propose that the people in the institutions be given the opportunity to share in this -- call it what you want -- this election windfall, this aberration -- whatever you want to call it -- of Mr. Diefenbaker's. Mr. Diefenbaker proposes that people in the category of old age pensioners, old age assistance, blind pensioners and so on, that they get a \$10.00 increase a month. We say fine. We agree with it. We think it's a wonderful idea. Let's not exclude anybody from it. Here are 4,000 people who are being excluded, and this doesn't take any credit away from the government because the government didn't wait for Mr. Diefenbaker. I'm not a supporter of Mr. Diefenbaker's. I happen to think that the First Minister is probably more competent than Mr. Diefenbaker so I give him credit; he was ahead of Mr. Diefenbaker. But Mr. Diefenbaker has finally seen the light. He's got a little more of that vision. He's proposing \$10.00 a month for everybody, and we're saying that these 4,000 people should not be short-changed. Now we may be stupid, but if we're stupid I want to say that there are an awful lot of other people who are stupid because they've been telling us that they don't understand it. They've been telling us that they're unhappy; they've been telling us that they think they're getting a raw deal; that they're being short-changed. Now the First Minister says it isn't so. I want to tell the First Minister that if he wants to convince them that it isn't so he's going to have to go and see every single one of them separately, otherwise they won't believe him, because this is what they think. And he's going to have to be at his best, at his most persuasive in these 4,000 individual interviews, to sell them the idea that they're not getting a raw deal. So what we're saying in brief in this amendment is that we think that these people in the institutions should this time be permitted to participate in this bonus that Mr. Diefenbaker's proposing. And I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that this affects the basic principle of The Social Allowances Act at all. If it did, Mr. Chairman, I want to say, for myself, that popular or unpopular, if I thought it violated the principles of The Social Allowances Act which I think is, on the whole, a good Act, if I thought it violated those principles, I would vote against any proposal which was made regardless of how popular it was at the moment.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, may I say -- I'll only be two or three minutes, but I would appreciate if you would listen to me. First of all I haven't got a loud voice; secondly I'm very much afraid of making a grammatical mistake; and thirdly I want to express what I think about the whole thing. I have been sitting quiet here for almost a week. In the first place, we are legislating not for us today and not for us tomorrow, but for our future, for posterity, for our children. We want them to go to the library and read the wise or unwise speeches made here and get a lesson from it, and that's why we should be very, very careful. Number 2, the idea for a caucus of a cabinet is a most wonderful thing because when a group of people express an opinion it's crystallized something definite. The motion was brought here by the Leader of the Liberal Party at 5:30. After all, after working from early morning until late at night -- and they have to eat according to doctors' regulations -- we had very little time to discuss it, and I'm not entirely ready to express an opinion unless I could either consult my colleagues or have a meeting to get their opinion, and many, many times I could assure you that my opinion does not always prevail. So naturally we haven't discussed it. Now my opinion is this: as far as the amendment to the amendment of my Leader is concerned, I'll definitely support. As far as the amendment of the government, I cannot digest it yet, and if it comes up tonight I'll oppose it. As far as the original motion, my heart speaks and not my brains. You know, they tell that a child's mind starts functioning at the time of birth and quits functioning at the night session of the Legislature. So the only thing that I have in mind, and this is my heart dictates, I cannot

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) . . . . oppose anything which in my opinion benefits the pensioners, whether it's ten cents or \$1.00 or \$3.00. It may be peanuts when you go to the Royal Alex Hotel to have a meal but it's not peanuts to the old age pensioner when he hasn't got enough to buy his food, and then perhaps he will get another dollar or two. I appreciate the explanation of the Minister of Public Welfare that in the long run he may not get anything. But you know people live with psychology, with hopes. Psychologically he feels that he's going to get all the federal government aid to old age pensioners. That's his psychology. And he is not going to study all the speeches; he's not going even to read it. He doesn't get a Hansard. All he wants to know, are the people thinking of us? Is the Legislature trying to help us? All the speeches made on the other side he will not read and he will not know anything about it. But here the Liberal Party came up, first time in 20 years -- I still remember for 16 years they opposed every improvement of the old age pensions, and I make this statement and I can prove it. Everything; and so did the Conservatives when they are here, and so did the Conservatives when they are there. But if anyone else, let it be the devil, comes up and says, "Here, we're going to give the old age pensioners another quarter", I'll be for it irrespective of the fact that comes from the Liberal Party or the Social Credit Party or from anyone else. So my position is this, definitely. I shall support the motion of my Leader. I will oppose the amendment from the government, and if it comes finally -- reluctantly perhaps -- I will support the main motion of the Liberal Party.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brokenhead, that the debate be adjourned. I do this because they have no copies of any of the motion or amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I don't think that's in order. You can't adjourn, not in the regular way. Are you ready for the question?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable member has moved a motion and according to our rule book on a point of order, Rule No. 62(1) says, "The rule shall be observed in a Committee of the Whole House insofar as they are applicable except the rules as to seconding of motions and limiting the number of times of speaking." So he is -- (Interjection) -- On what basis and what rule, though, is he out of order? -- (Interjection) -- On what basis? Give us the rule. -- (Interjection) --

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, there's a motion and any motion can be adjournable here. There's no rule in our rule book or anywhere else that says that a man couldn't adjourn a debate.

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Chairman, I understood that this whole discussion took place because there was unanimous approval of the House and that this motion was permitted to come in because we had the unanimous approval of the House, and I would expect any further points of order would require the unanimous decision of the House.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Yes, but Mr. Chairman, once we have the unanimous consent of the House to proceed with anything, the rules thereafter apply.

MR. ROBLIN: Perhaps we might consider a motion that the Committee rise. That's the customary thing if one wants to adjourn the debate in the Committee, and the member can move that the Committee rise if he wants to. That I think would be in order. That would be my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is your motion?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I don't see under what rule the honourable member isn't allowed to adjourn it. Rule 30 says that the rules as observed in the House are the same rules in the Committee of the Whole. Now on what basis can he not propose an adjournment?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, . . . . . to this. I think it's the first time in my history in here that this has arisen. Presuming the motion is proper and we adjourn the debate, we're sitting here in Committee. When and how do we pick it up again? I think that is the crux of the matter, Mr. Chairman. We're sitting in Committee, discussing a matter; we move the debate be adjourned; when do we pick it up? Because it doesn't become part of the order in anything. I don't know; I just raise this point to you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe you can clarify my thinking on this, but I . . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't move the adjournment of the debate but you can move that the Committee rise and report.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the Honourable Member for Rhineland

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . . could remove us all from our dilemma if he would just allow the debate to continue. This is a well-rehearsed subject by this time and I'm sure that a gentleman of his perspicacity could continue the debate now. I really don't see any way of adjourning it properly.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not prepared to speak tonight and I don't want to forfeit my chance to speak on this subject on this motion. That's why I'm adjourning the debate.

MR. LYON: I think, Mr. Chairman, that my honourable friend, with reference to what he has just said, he has ample opportunity, as has been pointed out before, on the motion to go into committee or during the estimates themselves, to revive the matter, but I think the Leader of the NDP is perfectly correct. There's no place to adjourn it to, because the rules have been suspended. Rule 48 provides for the 48 hours' notice; this matter is not on the Order Paper; you're adjourning it into the air and it's just not here to be adjourned. I think there's only one question that can be put, and that is the question on the motion after the debate has exhausted itself.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I suggest an addition. I've just had another thought on this, that if the thing is adjourned, the motion, the amendment and the amendment to the amendment just simply die because they can't be resurrected unless we deal with them while we're in committee and this committee that's sitting now at this time, because once this committee rises, you report progress, beg leave to sit again, and then we don't have anything before us unless it's an item within the estimates.

MR. J. M. HAWRYLUK (Burrows): . . . . . suggestion. I think it's a good point on the part of the First Minister to ask the Member for Rhineland to recall his adjournment. I think we've covered the waterfront all day today and I think it would be in order to move a vote on all the amendments and carry on as we are.

MR. E. PREFONTAINE (Carillon): This discussion has been very interesting and worthwhile. I don't see any reason why the debate could not be adjourned and by unanimous consent we might sit back again in this Committee tomorrow and start the discussion all over again and go into the sub-amendment and the amendment and the resolution. We could certainly give unanimous agreement to re-convening again as the Committee has today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot permit a committee to adjourn the debate but you can do as we suggested, move that the Committee rise and report, or else perhaps report, or else perhaps we've had a full discussion of opinion, if anyone else wants to speak . . . . put the question. Are you ready for the question?

MR. PETER WAGNER (Fisher): Mr. Chairman, I sat here all afternoon. I didn't move, and I just want to ask a question, and if that surprises you -- but I've seen Mr. Pearson yesterday on TV and I want to tell you what happened -- (Interjection) -- It amounts to that -- it amounts to that anyhow, because we are talking and we are getting no place. However, what I wanted to say -- I'm going to ask a question, but I want to say what it is and have my say, but I wouldn't be able to word it so technically like Mr. Pearson, but he was asked a question whether he would approve of a third party, and he said he wouldn't because the Liberals try to get support from the third party; the Conservatives try to get support from the third party, and the third party throws the most weight, so possibly tonight is the illustration that the government would like us to vote with them and the Liberals would like us to vote with them. However, Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask a question as a layman, and maybe this will clarify to everybody concerned. In my constituency there are most people that are getting supplementary assistance -- old age allowance or old age security -- from \$4.00 to \$9.00. Now, this is my question: Now the Federal Government gives \$10.00 so this man that is getting \$4.00 supplementary assistance from the provincial government, he would be only ahead \$6.00. Am I right? I'm asking the Minister of Welfare. Am I right? He would be to the benefit in his pocket \$6.00, because he would lose the \$4.00. He would get the \$10.00 all right but now he's getting \$59.00, so he would be losing the \$4.00, he would be gaining \$6.00. Am I right?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Right.

MR. WAGNER: Now the man that is getting \$9.00 -- he has to gain only \$1.00. Right?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Right.

MR. WAGNER: That's my question.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: You're substantially right, but every case is different, and I want



(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . to reiterate this again. My laughing friends of the Liberal party can chuckle all they like but this fact remains, nevertheless, and it is the basic principle of the Social Allowances Act, that every case is different and every case is reviewed on the basis of need. Now, if the need should change, this person may or may not lose the Social Allowance. It depends on that portion, but I would point out that your friend would still retain his Medicare card over and above . . . (Interjection) . . . Well, he has one, my friend, and this is something else that seems to escape the attention of some of the members opposite in their haste to try and make a little hay; that everybody who is of the aged and infirm group, who is under Social Allowance, does have a Medicare card. That's part of it. (Interjection) -- well, they've got to apply for Social Allowances. It's all figured into the Act the first time around. Now the other point that my friend overlooks is that the only people that received a flat \$10.00 automatically are the people who are over 70 years old and receiving the Old Age Security Pension. The other people will receive a varying amount because -- and some of them will receive more than \$10.00 because their pension is based on the income that is set down, the income regulations that are set down by the Federal Government, and these have been increased, so a lot of these people are going to get \$11.00, \$12.00, \$13.00 -- some may get as high as \$15.00 more. Now, I want to say again -- now I've said this, I think, about four times so far this afternoon but the osmotic pressure hasn't got high enough yet. The resolution as moved by the Honourable Member of the NDP merely states a fact. It doesn't do another thing, Mr. Chairman. It merely states a fact. Everybody who gets the increase who is on pension on these four categories gets the increase. They got it on the 1st of March, the 28th of February cheque. They've already got it. So really the motion as amended by the NDP means even less. We know what they're getting at, but as the thing is -- it was read in tonight and as I heard it means absolutely nothing because it merely states a fact that stands today.

MR. WAGNER: . . . . not quite I am sold on the answer because not everybody has a Medicare card, the one that is drawing \$4.00 or \$9.00 because he is, or she is drawing during the winter months the supplementary assistance, and then when the spring arrives you go back. Not all have the Medicare card.

SOME MEMBERS: He's right! He's right!

MR. CHRISTIANSON: The member, I must confess, is quite right in that. These people are receiving a fuel allowance in the wintertime and where the fuel allowance is allotted for less than six months, less than a six month period, they don't receive a Medicare card. But I would point out, that should anything happen to their medical category in the interim, they would, of course, be automatically eligible because they have established their eligibility for it, and I say again, if they need it, they get it. Now these are the only people that don't automatically get a Medicare card but I say again, if they need it, they get it.

MR. A. J. REID (Kildonan): . . . . Every time the Minister explains it, that I'm listening to, it's a different explanation. Well that's true. This afternoon he said that anybody getting assistance under \$10.00, their financial status wouldn't change. Now when the Honourable Member from Fisher asks him a question that these people only get \$4.00 or \$6.00 or something, then he starts hemming and hawing and he says every case is different. Well, it's certainly different and every explanation the Minister gives us is different, so I'd like him to take a stand and explain it because he certainly stated this afternoon that anybody under \$10.00 that their cases wouldn't change their financial status . . . . ., the government won't interfere in any way. Now it's a different explanation entirely.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd just point out that every question is different.

MR. CORBETT: Aren't we getting a little away from the matter under discussion, about Medicare cards and such like? I think there's a lot of emotion lately and not too much logic. But I resented, rather, a statement of the Leader of the Opposition that we were afraid to stand up and be counted. Well, as the thing is not true I certainly am not afraid to be counted on it. I believe there's 5,280 feet in a mile. There's 1,760 yards in a mile and for the farmers there's 320 rods, isn't it, in a mile, and if somebody came up here and said that there's only 5,000 yards in a mile I'd certainly dispute it because it wasn't right, but what all this motion is doing, or all this talk is doing, is asking us to amend the Social Allowances Act, which, in other words, anybody that applies for Social Allowance from now on, if we stay with the provisions of the old act, will not receive as much as the ones who are receiving social allowance

(Mr. Corbett, cont'd.) . . . . if we allow them to have that full \$10.00. So I think that this discussion should be ended, and voted -- voted out I think -- and then if pressure can be brought on the government or some other way to raise the ceiling of our social allowances, then this will be quite in order, but at the present time I cannot see that we're accomplishing anything else except discriminating against the future ones who will be eligible for Social Allowance, and the sooner we vote on this thing the better, and these amendments, they're emotional and they're popular probably to the readers of the press, but I don't think they're accomplishing the slightest thing in the world except asking us, forcing us to be fair to all the future old age pensioners who are eligible for social assistance, that will penalize them unless you raise the ceiling of the Social Allowances Act.

MR. HUTTON: I told a story here this afternoon that wasn't particularly appreciated in certain quarters. I have another one that I think is very appropriate to the occasion. There was a little boy, one time, who got it in his head that when he grew up he was going to be a politician, and his father was very concerned about this and he thought that he ought to take him down to the local Legislature and let him have a look at what he was letting himself in for, and so they went down and they sat in the gallery. It happened that on the opposite side of the gallery a chaplain was sitting and the little boy turned to his father and he said "Daddy, does the chaplain pray for the legislators?" And he said; "No, son, he looks at the legislators and he prays for the country."

MR. HRYHORCZUK: That's an old one.

MR. HUTTON: Yes, it's an old one, but it's very appropriate here tonight, and has been all afternoon, because it's a very cut and dried affair. The member for Swan River covered it completely. Unfortunately, the New Democratic Party for all their good faith have said at one stage that they would like this thing to cover those in institutions. Well, this is discriminatory because there are many people who are in receipt of social allowances. Actually to do the thing that the New Democratic Party wants us to do, we would have to follow the sense of the amendment that was moved by the Minister of Welfare. It's the only possible way that we can do it. And I know they're confused, and that's the only reason that they're opposed to it, and I know that it isn't explicit but it can't be explicit because it means examining the needs of each individual and I would say this, Mr. Chairman, that if we did, if we did increase not only those who are in receipt of assistance now but even those who come in the future with an overall blanket increase of \$10.00, this would not be in the spirit of the Social Allowances Act. It would not be in line with the principles as set out, because it could be that some of these people, if you're going to spend additional monies and raise the standards, that some would get more than \$10.00 and some would get less than \$10.00. So you cannot achieve an equitable increase in the standards in meeting the needs of Manitoba citizens who need help by merely making even an overall increase of \$10.00 available to everybody who is now in receipt or ever may be in receipt. That is a fact, because of those monies that are expended some would get more and some would get less if you looked at them as individual cases. So on every ground the arguments of the New Democratic Party in favour of their solution are in violation, or contradicts the spirit in the principle of the Social Allowances Act.

. . . . . Continued on next page

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may, just on this point. I think that the Honourable Member for Swan River really hit the nail on the head, and this is -- whether I've done it parliamentarily or otherwise, what we are suggesting is exactly what the Honourable Member for Swan River said, that the base, the base of the social allowance -- while we're dealing with pensions it's true -- should be increased in the amount of \$10.00. Now that's basically what we have said. Now then, I say this believing it to be so. We're dealing here with old age assistance and old age security pensions and other pensions as well. As the Honourable the Attorney-General accurately pointed out this afternoon these aren't the only incomes that are considered in respect to social allowances but only part of them. Now then I would say this, I would be prepared to withdraw my amendment to the amendment whether it's worded that way or not -- that was my intent, to have the base raised by the \$10.00. I would be prepared to withdraw my amendment to the amendment if the government was prepared in their amendment instead of saying what they say of the opinion that consideration should be given to the advisability of reviewing the regulations -- because after all it's so true, Mr. Chairman, that as far as we are concerned as members of this Legislature we have nothing at all to do with the regulations; we don't set the regulations; they're set by Order-in-Council by the Cabinet -- now then Sir, if the government were prepared to say in their amendment, "and further of the opinion that the government should give consideration to the advisability of raising the base amount in the regulations by the amount of \$10.00 a month", I think that that would be acceptable to everyone on this side of the House. It certainly would be acceptable as far as I'm concerned and I would be prepared to withdraw my amendment to the amendment. Now what actually would this mean, Mr. Chairman? It would mean first of all that the government would carry through what it has to do and should do in respect of reviewing the amounts under social allowance. They would do that, and then as a result of an amendment of this nature, that in considering that review they would consider it in the light of an overall increase in the base of \$10.00. Now I think it's just as simple as that, Mr. Chairman. I think that is the desire of us over on this side, and all that would be required for the government to give consideration just to do that.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): Mr. Chairman, I have been silent so far and I'm not going to keep you very long. It seems to me that I could tell a fairy story too -- a Mother Goose fairy story, a real fairy story, about a little old woman who lived in a shoe and had so many children she didn't know what to do. I think this applies to the First Minister because I think the First Minister blundered today. I think it was the First Minister who precipitated his party and his government into this argument, if you can call it an argument, today. He also blundered again when the Honourable Member from Rhineland proposed to adjourn the debate because if he wouldn't have objected or the . . . didn't object I suppose that this would have dissolved into thin air. As I said before, I haven't taken any part in this discussion because it has been distasteful for me to place the pensioners on the auction block. And to me it seems that that's what the First Minister indicated in this House when he charged some of the members -- I don't know if he also charged the members behind him with expediency. I say that he placed the pensioner on the auction block with precipitating this argument. And further, I would also say that the Honourable the Attorney-General further precipitated this by challenging us on this side to stand up and be counted. It seems to me that the question is very simple. Is the pensioner morally entitled to the increase provided by an act of . . . . . ? We on this side say, Yes. Most of the members, at least those who have spoken on the other side say, no. Now, Mr. Attorney-General, we took you at your word; we took your challenge and invite you to have the courage or intestinal fortitude to stand up and be counted. We are ready.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, seeing that the amendments will be coming to a vote, I will place a few words on record too. First of all, when the First Minister said that they had recognized the principle of need and had acted on it in bringing the Social Allowances Act into existence, I feel that it is a good piece of legislation. I believe in the principle myself. However, when the Prime Minister of Canada was rather slow in recognizing this need and he comes in two years later and increases the pension by \$10.00, I feel that he also recognizes this need and that need -- need not object to the principle of need in endorsing the approval of the pensions from Ottawa. Certainly all the pension from Ottawa would do, the increased pensions,

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) . . . is to raise the level from where the Social Allowances Act which is based on the principle of need would start to act. Instead of starting from the level of \$55.00 it would then start from the level of \$65.00. It is quite simple and clear and therefore I think it is unfair that the amendments had to be made to the motion that was placed before us in that we had to choose between either the two of them. I think most of the members present believe in the principle of need; they also believe that the whole level of pensions should be raised, and therefore I am in support of the motion placed before the House by the Leader of the Opposition, and I think the Leader of the New Democratic Party -- the amendment that he made is proposing the same thing only it also recognizes the principle need, and I can support both.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, . . . . . the question I think the Honourable Member of the New Democratic Party made a proposition that he would withdraw his amendments, or his sub-amendment, if the government is prepared to give us the statement that we've been speaking of since 3:30 o'clock this afternoon. And this comes back to the same point. If the government would simply get up and tell us that the old age pensioners will receive the full extent of the \$10.00, that none of them will receive any less, then that would solve the whole issue. That's the whole matter and they don't need to talk about the Social Allowances Act; it's not a sacred Act. Like every other Act, it can be changed. What's so suddenly sacrosanct about that Act that it can't be changed? The circumstances have changed. Ottawa is now increasing its basic pension by \$10.00 and all we're saying, what my honourable friends are saying, what my whole motion said in the first place, what his sub-amendment says, what the Member for Rhineland has just said, is exactly that. Now if the government will give us that assurance -- it's as simple as that. If the government is not prepared to give us that assurance, we are going to support the sub-amendment made by the Leader of the NDP; we will vote against the amendment made by my honourable friends -- not that we oppose the principles of the Social Allowances Act but that we oppose completely the method in which they are taking this present increase by Ottawa in hand. That is the position that we take, and my honourable friends simply need to declare themselves openly that they are prepared to see every old age pensioner get that increase; that's the end of the discussion. If they had done that early this afternoon, it would have solved it then.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . . grateful to my honourable friend for telling us how we can end the discussion. As far as I'm concerned, I'm simply going to say that we adhere to our position. We have a sound principle -- we meet need. Insofar as the \$10.00 is concerned it is affected by the principle of need just as the \$55.00 was. Why didn't we start it at a base of \$45.00 or a base of \$35.00 or any old base you like? Simply because we were working on the basis of need; that is the reason why. If a man's need goes up his supplementary allowance goes up. If his need goes down, his supplementary allowance goes down. That's the sound principle; it's in the principle of the Act, and that is the principle to which we will adhere. So as far as we're concerned we're quite willing to stand up and be counted as soon as the question's called.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Chairman, I want to ask one question. Sometimes we do question, as you know, material that is contained in this Information Services bulletin. I want to ask you, or ask the Members on the front bench over there, is this one a fact? And I'm only going to read one paragraph -- one paragraph, dated February 19, 1960. "Recipients of allowances may earn up to \$20.00 per month without a reduction in the amount of government assistance" -- and they are referring to Social Allowances -- "Family allowances for children are not considered as income or resources in computing Social Welfare Allowances." Now if that is a fact, then what is the difference? The legislation permits them to earn up to \$20.00 per month. What's the difference if they're receiving an additional \$10.00 a month from Ottawa? You can allow it according to -- I can't see any difference. Apparently, what you're doing is introducing a deductible clause in the Social Allowances. That's what it looks like to me. It's a \$10.00 a month deductible clause and we are asking that you delete that deductible clause that is now inherent in the plan.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that this is -- well I am very sorry to hear this kind of stuff coming from the honourable members opposite. The Member for Gladstone has been a very ardent recruit of our Social Allowances program and what he fails to realize is that we have more than one program. The program that all the people over there have been talking about all day long has been the program as it applies to the people in the aged and infirm

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . category. The program that he's talking about are the people who come under Mothers' Allowances. Well, the fact, nevertheless, is this doesn't make any difference because what he's talking about is Mothers' Allowance, whereas under the aged and infirm categories, which are the pension categories that the gentlemen opposite have been talking about all afternoon, is quite another category, and under the Mothers' Allowance categories need is calculated on a different basis. Naturally. It must be, because you have mothers with large families who are raising these families, and the members, I think, will agree with the basis under which these regulations are promulgated and the idea behind them -- that of meeting need. But again I say it's a different category altogether from the one that's been under discussion here all day, and I'm very sorry that the Honourable Member from Gladstone hasn't realized this fact before.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, this Information Services bulletin is dated February 19, 1960 -- starts out by listing on the front page --

A MEMBER: What . . . . . Where does it come from?

MR. SHOEMAKER: The Department of Industry and Commerce is where it comes from. Just ask for it. You can get on it -- there's no subscription fee. It sets out all of the basic payments -- it sets out the basic payments under the Social Allowances Act. The whole thing sets it out. But I can understand that there's some confusion. I would like to read you just one little resolution that came before the resolutions that were passed at the 58th Annual Convention of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities held in Winnipeg November 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 1961, and that wasn't too long ago, and the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain illustrated tonight how confused some of the municipal men are, and they're responsible men, and they drafted this resolution. It's a short one -- Resolution No. 26 -- and I quote: "That we request the provincial government to inform responsible municipal officials of any new plans which affect their residents before such information is given to press and radio so that officials will be able to answer questions which invariably arise from the necessarily sketchy coverage by various information media", and that was carried unanimously by that convention, and it does point out that much of the information gets into the press and radio and is so confusing that even the municipal men can't understand it or interpret it. And if I'm confused over this one the blame must lie with the editor of the Department of Industry and Commerce.

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health)(Gimli): . . . the Honourable Member from Neepawa, and compliment the Minister of Welfare. Under the Social Allowances Act you have these various categories of assistance which you were given, and it's all based on the basis of need, and the traditional Mothers' Allowance caseload -- mothers with large families -- you're primarily concerned with giving a little incentive to family units and also to make sure the children are adequately protected. Now this statement that the honourable member has just made; we respect the resolutions made by municipalities for further information as it's available but, on the other hand, we're accused of being the big public relations boys, of barging around the province shooting off and spreading our propaganda and here, on the other hand, we're accused of not giving out enough information, and I certainly -- any -- when the municipal men say this we must take heed. However, the Welfare Department have, under my jurisdiction and under the present Minister, at the regional supervisor level, been advised to keep in touch with municipal people constantly and to advise them of changes, and when I've been in the field I have found this to be the case and I would hope that this continues. But the Minister has tried to point out to the Honourable Member from Neepawa the necessity of the traditional Mothers' Allowance program where the benefits were put more on a needs test basis with the implementation of the Social Allowances Act, and I think the Honourable Member must be fair in that respect, that that circular sent out by the Department was circulated widely and the regulations promulgated pointing out these things in great detail. For instance, permitting a family unit to purchase essential items -- an allowance was made per unit, and we must give very special attention to the traditional caseload where there are dependent children. However, it's still on the basis of need with quite realistic regulations, and these regulations are under constant review by the field staff, the Director of Welfare and at the regional supervisory level. If I recall last year, the members of the Opposition were quite critical that possibly we were giving too much out by way of assistance to this program, and we take cognizance of this along with the other statements.

But as the Minister has pointed out certainly the program has been aimed since its

(Mr. Johnson, Gimli, cont'd.) . . . beginning at meeting the great gap and the great need which existed in this province in the care of the aged and infirm, and when we talk of the Social Allowances Act we all have to agree that it is a good Act. It's as good an Act as has ever been written in this Dominion of Canada, and I have reviewed the other Acts, and certainly the people are getting their basic dividend from Canada of the \$65.00 pension, and they are being supplemented, and the old folk, elderly people in this province, should have this explained to them by every single member of this House as we come across it. We must remember, too, that of the high care caseload amongst these people, of the 2,000 of our senior citizens who are in receipt of care in daily living in alternative institutions such as senior citizens' homes and so on, in addition to the benefits paid through the Social Allowances Act complementing their pensions, is the provision of essential health services. This, of course, is on a universal needs test basis -- not the old 183 means test bases that existed in this province until 1958 -- and this has been a real step forward. I don't think we should shoot down the Social Allowances Act on the basis of the debate that has been going on in this House today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendments to the amendment, moved by the Honourable the Leader of the New Democratic Party, that all the words after the word "Act" in the second line be deleted and the following added: "and that this Committee is of the opinion the House should give consideration to the advisability of every person in receipt of Federal Old Age Security Pension, Old Age Assistance, and Blind and Disability Pensions, receive the full increase provided by the Federal and Provincial governments in its recent change in pensions."

After a standing vote the Chairman declared the motion lost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: An amendment moved by the Honourable Minister of Welfare that the resolution of the Leader of the Opposition be amended by striking out all the words after the word "that" in the first line thereof and substituting therefor the following: "This Committee reaffirms its support for the basic principles of the Social Allowance Act, which was enacted with the unanimous support of the House, and is further of the opinion that consideration should be given to the advisability of reviewing regulations insofar as these relate to the standards of need."

After a standing vote the Chairman declared the motion as amended carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think that I'm on the . . . . . here, Sir, in dealing with the resolutions and the estimates -- the first page --

MR. STAN ROBERTS (La Verandrye): I would point out the Chairman has not called an item yet.

MR. ROBLIN: Beg pardon?

MR. ROBERTS: The Chairman has not called an item yet.

MR. ROBLIN: Oh, well, I'm about to ask him to do so if my friend would allow me.

MR. ROBERTS: Fine -- Just so long as we haven't infringed upon any of the time allotted to estimates.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Before the Chairman calls an item, I wonder whether these 4 1/2 hours that we've been discussing old age pensions would be charged against our allotted time to discuss estimates, because we haven't been on estimates at all this afternoon. We've been on old age pensions, and I hope these 4 1/2 hours will not be charged against the time allotted.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I suppose it could be held that the hours applied in the Committee of Supply, and that therefore from the moment we went in the Committee of Supply we would be charged with the time. However, I'm of the opinion that the House is so co-operative, that we will move through these estimates so smoothly, that this matter will not arise. I want to say this, though, I am not joking on this. I hope that we can find mutual agreement; set reasonable targets as to when we should finish our work; and if we can do that kind of thing, we can move through on the 11 o'clock basis indefinitely. Now I can't tell how things will turn out. It may be that my hopes are far too optimistic, but we know the amount of time we usually take on these things. I don't expect members to be obstructionists -- I think it would be wrong for me to make that assumption -- and that we may be able to move through even beyond the usual 65 hours on the 11 o'clock basis provided that we have a reasonable measure of co-operation getting on with the business, and I imagine that we can probably do that.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that we are prepared to give all our co-operation. One of the things that we would ask of the government is that if they can give us

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . the furthest notice in advance they can as to what will be coming up, this will facilitate things greatly and they can depend on our co-operation.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Mr. Chairman, I think I can speak on behalf of our group. We'll co-operate, but I suppose you'll pursue the usual procedure that we'll get some indication as to who the Minister will be.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes. I've got the first five items lined up which will certainly see us through for the next few days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 1, Item 2 (a) passed (b) passed (c) passed

MR. ROBLIN: . . . statutory; we do not pass them. (Interjection) -- oh, well, if my honourable friend would like to speak on it, please do.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this legislation item, I want to bring to the government's attention a matter which is worthwhile of consideration. I'm speaking for myself. I have not consulted or permitted of my group to bring this to the attention of the House, and the subject is a pension irrespective of how small or big, should be considered for the members of this House after they've served a number of years -- maybe 15 years; it may be four sessions. The federal government extends a pension after four sessions; so does the Province of Saskatchewan. We read in the press, day in and day out, criticizing men in public service sometimes for their inability or lack of attention, and sometimes they do it because they do not want to sacrifice their private livelihood altogether realizing that when they get defeated after so many years, or want to retire, that they had something more than the \$65.00 a month, if they live that long. We always need good men and we depend on good men to enter public life, and they could do it only on two reasons. One is either they make a livelihood out of it, or they have other financial means to come in, and sometimes we get in people who make a livelihood of this and the public think that they are not the right people to represent the public in political service. I know, in my experience the last half a century, watching the political situation, in the entire province of Manitoba including all sections, of the service that they are called upon to accept and they find not always can we get the best men because they do not want to sacrifice their subsistence, and they're old and they become old -- enjoying this so-called golden age period. As I said, if Ottawa and other provinces found it necessary, I think consideration could be given -- I wouldn't say "should" be given -- but could be given also in this province, and also for the members of the Legislature. Supposing this could be introduced at a nominal sum of \$2,000 or \$3,000 which will not . . . a man happy, and could exist and meet the present economic conditions on such amount. At the moment it will only affect three people in the province, but the younger men will look forward, they will serve the same as anyone working for the railways or working for the province, they'll look forward, they'll do their job right; they're not struggling for other positions, because they know that sooner or later if they need it they'll get something to carry on, something to prevent them from going out to the old folks' homes or in their old age look for another position where no one wants them.

Speaking from the point of view of expense, I could fully justify it. Number one, for the moment, the next years, I hope, is myself. The reason I don't include the other two gentlemen here first is because I don't think that they are worrying of two things. One, they're not worrying very much about being elected and secondly their old age pensions consist of the farms, the businesses they have. In my particular case -- and I must include myself to be honest about it -- it is not so. Now, I have given 37 years nearly in public life. When I entered years ago, it was in the school board, which they have not paid one cent of indemnity, but at that time they had the best qualified men to serve. They were there to serve the people and not for any other reason. And then when I entered the aldermanic position, I was getting \$90.00 a month for 12 years during the depression years. It wasn't enough to give away, and it wasn't half enough even to pay for the election for the coming year. So I feel it's absolutely justified if you want good men -- and I consider myself a good man, along with the others; otherwise I wouldn't have been here -- and if I want to serve and help serve conscientiously and honestly, I doubt that I have missed a single session here, maybe one out of sickness. I don't think I have very many anyway, then here's a question maybe to come up next election. Well, so the honourable members may say or think, "Well who in the world needs you here any more? Can't even climb the stairs fast to come in here." But I'm on time even if I'm slow, and I would like to continue

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.). . . serving. I think my experience, and as ignorant as I am -- and you heard today that if I get up they say I don't say anything -- but at the same time not my service in the House. My service outside of the House is greater than my service in the House. I'm trying to put my case and the other two gentlemen here can do it themselves. I feel that I may have to retire and get a job as a caretaker somewhere or running an elevator. I have no profession; I have no academic standing and the time has come perhaps that I may not be as useful here any more or the time has come that somebody else is going to run and beat me out of it. So I feel -- and if I'm here you're not paying a cent for me, so either way you're saving the money, but I would like to feel that if I'm defeated or if my health will not permit me to continue any more, why should I be worse than any civil employee, anybody else that worked for somebody else? The big employers are anxious to have a pension for their men because he's not worrying, waiting for another job, and the longer he stays in the business the better he is. I don't think I have to belabour any more because I do not anticipate it will be done. My suggestions may be a voice in the wilderness but I would like to bring this under the estimates for the attention of the administration that some consideration, whether now or next year, be given to this, in my opinion, serious problem and enabling to invite good, handsome, educated young men with academic standing, that instead of going out to look for a business, instead of going out peddling, and instead of going out selling peanuts on a corner, and if he's qualified and the people want them, they could come in here, get a training, stay on and be an asset to the Legislature and a help to the community.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be discourteous of me if I did not make some reply to the statement that has just been made by the Honourable Member for Inkster, because I think I may say without exaggeration, and I'm sure without contradiction, that he has placed all of us here in this House in his debt, because while we don't always see eye to eye on the policies of administration that we must follow, and particularly those that have to do with financial affairs, his qualities of heart and mind have been qualities that have contributed to the lustre of this Assembly and we would be much the poorer, and I think I may also say, the people of Manitoba would be much the poorer, if my honourable friend is not making his contribution. I know tonight, for example, we couldn't agree on the question of helping the old age pensioners and yet I would uphold against all comers the interest and the sincerity of my honourable friend in that particular cause as well as in many other causes. And so we're bound to listen with respect and attention to what he has to say on the problem that he has placed before us.

I wish I could tell him that we had some active plans but I'm afraid that is not the case. One of the difficulties, of course, is that members who are not members of the Executive Council are perhaps properly described as being part-time on this particular job. We meet here for eight to ten weeks in the year, and I know that in addition to that, however, many members put in a good deal of time, and I'm sure my honourable friend is one, in dealing with the work outside the House that he mentioned. Yet nevertheless I think all members except those on the Executive Council are pretty well compelled to look to other means of getting their livelihood beside being a member of the House, and with that complication it is difficult to work out a plan. I just don't know whether we can look into the matter further. I think other jurisdictions have pensions. Some have for members of the Executive Council because, as you know, there's no security of tenure in that particular occupation and one indeed offers hostages to fortune when one assumes these kind of responsibilities. And even after many years of devoted public service, as can be said of other members of this House, on the executive bench there is always the strong likelihood that sooner or later one will change places. And I feel that that problem too, as well as the problem raised by my honourable friend, perhaps should not be entirely dismissed. But I must say, Sir, that at the present moment we have no particular views on this matter. We have no policy to propose to the Chamber. It may be that other members would have something to say about it either now or in the future and we would be glad of any counsel we would get on it, but I'm afraid that is the situation at the present moment.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think that I should rise and support the matter that's been raised by my honourable colleague from Inkster. I think what he has said is perfectly true of the years of devoted service -- I don't think there is any question about that -- a man



(Mr. Pauley, cont'd.) . . . like himself has given. I think that the First Minister is perfectly correct when he states that this is one of the positions that is peculiar, particularly peculiar to the Executive Council, particularly those of the Executive Council who may -- and I don't know if there are any of them, Mr. Chairman -- who may have left regular employment where there are pension schemes to which they can make a joint contribution with their employer. There may be, I don't know. I do know that some of my colleagues, indeed myself -- and I'm certainly not preaching for a call -- myself; I have lost -- the railroad pension is based on cumulative service. I have lost approximately two years of service, recognized service insofar as the railway is concerned, by virtue of the fact that I take leave of absence during the sessions from my employer, without pay unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, and without -- previously -- without an opportunity of making a contribution into a pension scheme. Now I don't know how many members in the House would be affected this way. I do know that there are two of my colleagues in my own particular group that are affected this way. I don't know if there are any in the official opposition or in the government. But notwithstanding the individuals concerned, be it members of our group or any group, it is the question of the principle. Now this, I understand, has been adopted in the Province of Saskatchewan. I believe it's been adopted in the Province of Quebec. I believe also Nova Scotia or New Brunswick -- I think one of them also had the scheme of pensions in respect of members of provincial legislatures. Of course we do know that it is true at Ottawa but to me there's a difference between Ottawa and provincial jurisdiction due to the time element, but notwithstanding this, provision has been made in some of our provinces already. Now I know my honourable friend the Honourable Member for Lakeside doesn't like to be used as an example and I'm not using him as a personal individual in respect of this. But here was a man, Mr. Speaker, whom I believe ever since 1922, if I'm correct in the date, came into this Legislature, for many years was a member of the Executive Council, and still, fortunately for this House, is still a member of this House. Now had he have been in slightly different circumstances, I mean insofar as daily occupation is concerned, to what he was, he could have conceivably been in a position where while it's true that he may have been able to accumulate a pension on his personal contributions but he wouldn't have been able to partake in some of the schemes and many of the schemes in respect of pensions which are joint between employer and employee. And I think, Mr. Chairman, that while possibly we're not in a position, as the First Minister has indicated, to take this under advisement for this particular year, that it is something that the government should give serious consideration to.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, one of my many bad habits through the years has been that I have always found it difficult to sit silent when matters that concerned either me personally or, I have to confess, even my stated opinions have been under discussion. And while I know that neither the Honourable Member for Inkster nor the Leader of the New Democratic Party meant to in any way embarrass me by mentioning me particularly or referring to me as one of the ones who would likely qualify for a pension if one were provided, yet the fact is that I am one, I suppose, that would be in that position unless you set the standard fairly long, but if you set it at 40 or 50 years or 60 or something like that there would be a comparatively small number of us, I suppose, would qualify, although I certainly expect to reach that latter figure. But I must say when this matter is brought up that -- and I don't in any way want to criticize the arguments that the honourable gentlemen who have supported the idea have used but simply to give my own impressions of this matter -- I think there are still some places in this country of opportunity and this province that's been so good to us where we should be willing -- some of us should be willing and some groups should be willing to live according to the free enterprise system that we talk about. I know that there are a lot of people, a great many people, are covered by pensions in industry and one thing and another. I know that. But I think there's some areas where some of us would prefer to continue to be free enterprisers and to live dangerously -- and politics is a dangerous occupation and a pretty trying one, but I still think it's got its rewards and I still think that we get a pretty good indemnity here, we private members. And I still think that the Ministers of the Crown receive a pretty good salary, and I think that it's up to a person in a free enterprise economy to try and so order their affairs that they will make some provision for their future years.

Now it's true that some of us don't manage to accomplish that, and the measure of our accomplishments differ greatly as between individuals, but I don't think that you can level

(Mr. Campbell, cont'd.) . . . everybody up in this country. I don't think it's advisable that we should try to. And as far as getting good people in this House, we've got good people into it under this present system. Oh, there might be a few exceptions that I could mention if I were forced to that, but by and large we're just what we're supposed to be. We're just representatives of the constituencies from which we come. --(Interjection) -- Yes, it is. There's quite a weeding-out process. We're just supposed to be representatives of the constituencies from which we come -- no better, no worse than the rest of the people. And in my time here it's been my privilege to know a great many people. I've known all who have been in this House; I've known them all intimately that have been here in a 40-year period. I've known a great many of the federal House of Commons in that time -- great many of the other legislatures, some of them people from the Parliament in the Mother of Parliaments and a good many in the United States to the south. And I've got the opportunity of knowing all of those people very largely at the expense of the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba. I have travelled all over this country, gone to conferences, gone on trips -- which I always maintained were for the benefit of the public -- on the taxpayers' expense. The taxpayer owes me nothing. I owe the taxpayer a lot. And I think somebody has still got to take the position that we want to be able to give as well as get, in this economy of ours. And that's not meant as a disparagement to anybody who holds contrary views. I'm simply saying it another way that I think some of us and some groups should be prepared to say that we're willing to live right up to this free enterprise system on every count. But in all these people that I've known through the years or the experience that I've had -- and I've had to do my little bit in trying to persuade people to become candidates for office in this Legislative Assembly -- I have never yet known a case of where a person was held back by the fact of the size of our indemnity or the fact that there wasn't a pension. I think a good many of them, after they have come in here, have found out that they didn't make very much money out of it. It's not a job that you get rich at, but I think the vast majority has found that there were many compensating factors. So I don't know, but I'll tell you the thing that I think keeps people out of this House more than -- makes it difficult to get the best candidates easily -- more than the question of money or the lack of pensions, and that's the abuse that politicians have to take, and I don't mean the abuse that we take from one another. I think it's fine -- any abuse that we give to one another across the floor of this House, because when my honourable friends on that side of the House hold views that are contrary to mine it's not only their right, it's their duty, to stand up and express them and tell them where I'm wrong, and in this country we have the opportunity of contravening their statements if we can, and I'm not considering that abuse when we have difference of opinion here, but abuse that we get from the way that we're frequently presented to the public by the media of communication that goes out to a lot of the people in the province. I think one of the things that's wrong is that too many people make fun of the politicians and think that it's a game, and this sort of thing. Well, it's a pretty serious game if we're going to hold our country in the position that it needs to be in a mighty competitive world these times, and I think one of the things that's necessary -- more necessary than money or pensions -- is for us to so conduct ourselves in here and in our political campaigns, that the communications media of the province won't be able to say the things about us that they do. I think they say too much now, in the wrong way. But coming back to the main theme -- I'm not in favour of the suggestion that's being made. I think it's better for us to carry on. Of course you'd expect me to say that -- I'm so old-fashioned that you think I don't change about anything -- but I think there's a principle here and I'd like to see Manitoba be one of the provinces where the Legislative Assembly says "Yes, sir, I think this is a good province and I think it's well worth working for and I'm willing, I'm willing to serve. I think we should have a proper indemnity, but I'm willing to serve for a very minimum indemnity that we can get along with, and give me that and the opportunities there are in this country and I'll get along on it."

And so I'm not preaching for a call either, even though I expect to be here long enough to qualify for one if there should be, and of course if it ever comes I'll be on the other side of it, but if everybody else takes it I suppose I will too, but I hope it doesn't come in Manitoba. I'd like to see us -- if every other province puts in a pension -- I'd like them to be able to say, "Well those fellows in Manitoba are really free enterprisers, and they really believe in giving some service to the community without trying to extract every last cent that they can get out of it."

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I feel obliged to rise on this point. I did say in my remarks I was not preaching for a call and I'm sure that my honourable friend who has just taken his seat didn't mean anything personal in his remarks, because I join with him in saying that insofar as the likes of us that are in this Assembly today, those of us -- and by comparison, my years of public service by comparison with my honourable friend are rather short -- but certainly I didn't enter into any of the spheres that I have had the pleasure of serving the public for personal gain financial. That has been the least of my considerations.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, it has been the least of the considerations of my honourable friend from Inkster, and I just want to place it firmly on the record again that I am sure that my honourable friend, the Member for Lakeside, didn't mean anything personal at all, and I want it clearly established on the record that that was not the reason that my honourable colleague from Inkster has raised this point for real compensation, financial gain, but rather because of the fact -- and I'm sure that this is his point -- that after many, many years of good service that while pension schemes are in effect and in vogue, that consideration may be given to us here. And that. . . .

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I can say with all sincerity that I was not attempting in any way to criticize my honourable friends or to use them as examples. I was simply stating my own opinion that had no reference to what anybody else might say or think.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, just one second. I hope that my suggestion was not misunderstood, because in the first place you get a pension after you are defeated in the House or for certain reasons you don't intend to run. I realize that this will not come up. I never hoped that you will agree, but I thought I'd bring this to the attention of the House. In view of the cold reception I received, I threaten you that I'll stay here for a long time.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, before we leave this item, I've been looking through the estimates for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Now, I don't see it anywhere and I believe my honourable friend, the First Minister was there last year. I wonder if he could give a report to the House.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think we can deal with that under grants. I think we give a grant to the Parliamentary Association and we'll have a discussion about it at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 2, Resolution 1 (a) passed, (b) passed, (c) passed, (d) passed

MR. MOLGAT: No, no, I want to speak on 2 (b), Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine.

MR. MOLGAT: I rise at this time, Mr. Chairman, not to discuss particularly the specific item there that is the Opposition Leader's salary, but rather some other matters connected with the job of the Leader of the Opposition. My honourable friend the First Minister has had a number of comments to make so far in this session about the duties of the Opposition, and I must confess that I agree with him to a large extent, that the Opposition does have some very serious duties in our concept of parliamentary government, and this is a very desirable matter. I think a government needs a good Opposition. I think it's good for our whole system, and this is the basis on which we've operated for many years and the basis on which we will no doubt continue. In order to be able to do the job of an Opposition one of the basic problems at all times is staff. My honourable friends have their departmental staff. As you look through the various departments you will see that there is substantial staff in most cases available to the Ministers. They have their department heads and so on. A good number of them now have an executive assistant; they have, in addition to that, a secretary or secretaries.

Mr. Chairman, I'm not interested in a change at this stage in the salary of the Leader of the Opposition but I am very much interested, in order to do a proper job of opposition in having some staff to assist the Opposition in doing that work. The specific staff requirements that I think we should have are a full time secretary, on the same basis as the Ministers' secretary, and a research assistant. Now this may seem like a large request, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that at the moment we have no staff whatever except during the session. When one compares the situation here in the Province of Manitoba with the other provinces across Canada, I think it does permit of some change in what has been done here in the past. I've checked, Mr. Chairman, on the other jurisdictions in this country -- I must admit that I have not got all of them; I have most of them -- as to what they do in this regard. To start off with the senior government in Ottawa, for example, there -- and when I refer to salary

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . . again I want to repeat it's not because I'm asking for an increase in salary. I'm only pointing out the total arrangements that exist for the Leader of the Opposition. In Ottawa, the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to the same salary as a Cabinet Minister, though of course there's no provision made for the payment of travelling expenses from the public purse. So far as staff, the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to the same staff as a Cabinet Minister, and that staff at present consists of ten persons, holding positions classified as permanent civil servant appointments under the Civil Service Act.

Starting on the extreme eastern coast of our country, we have Newfoundland, the newest addition to the Canadian Confederation, and there the Leader of the Opposition has an allowance of \$3,000 a year. He's supplied with an office, rent free, in the Legislative Building, and the Opposition are voted a further secretarial allowance of \$3,740. Coming on then this way, I regret I have not got the figures for Nova Scotia. Prince Edward Island -- there I must confess that there is not a great deal done for the Leader of the Opposition. He has no staff and no space, but I want nevertheless to put it on the record so that I do put all the provinces that I have been able to obtain the information on, and the Leader gets an additional \$1,000 per year. The Province of New Brunswick -- the Leader gets an additional \$3,000 per year and staff during the session only, three stenographers; he does get space in the buildings. Then we come along to the Province of Quebec, and there there is a very substantial change. The Leader of the Opposition in salary gets \$8,000; expenses for official entertainment, non-taxable, \$2,000; living allowance in Quebec non-taxable, \$2,000; salary as a member of the legislative assembly, \$6,700; travelling expenses non-taxable, \$3,300; total \$22,000, and I suspect my Honourable Friend the First Minister will be very interested in these figures himself. However, looking at the staff arrangements, Mr. Chairman, we find that there the Leader of the Opposition has a general secretary, paid \$9,000; a private secretary to the Leader of the Opposition paid \$5,500; a stenographer paid \$3,300; an ante-room clerk \$3,100; two full-time stenographers for the members of the Opposition, \$2,800 each; and part-time stenographers during the Session - an average of one stenographer for every 4 or 5 members, \$2,200. Then we come along to the Province of Ontario, again very close I would say to the Province of Quebec. The indemnity there is \$5,000; there is an allowance for expenses of \$2,000 non-taxable, a representation allowance of \$2,000 non-taxable; and the same salary as a Cabinet Minister which is \$12,000 per annum, so a total of some \$21,000. Then the Leader of the Opposition is provided with a suite of offices immediately adjoining the legislative chamber, which includes a personal office, an office for his secretary, an office for his executive assistant, two small offices for use by members for interviewing, writing and working, an office for a second secretary and a small lounge which will accommodate 11 or 12 people, which is used primarily by the members; a caucus room is also provided in another part of the building. The staff of the Leader of the Opposition consists of an executive assistant, a secretary and a stenographer. This staff and all the expenses, such as stationery, telephone, are provided in a lump sum allowance in the budget to the speaker. This sum is in fact, a drawing account which can be used at the discretion of the Leader of the Opposition. The amount has been increased within the past year to permit full-time employment of a second secretary.

The Province of Saskatchewan--the Leader is given an additional \$500 a month for staff. That is apparently--I have not got a specific letter on that one, just a general . . . . . The Province of Alberta--only staff during session--(interjection)--I don't know what the situation is in the Province of Alberta--a little difficult I presume at this stage. Province of British Columbia, the CCF there--my honourable friend will be interested in the official Opposition, and the leader receives an additional \$8,500 in addition to his indemnity apparently. Receives money for a research assistant, something in the area of \$8,000 per year.

Now that is the general run-through throughout Canada. Now I wouldn't suggest for a moment, Mr. Chairman, that in the Province of Manitoba we should have the same arrangements as, say, in the Province of Ontario or the Province of Quebec. Those are quite obviously larger provinces than our own; much bigger population; bigger House itself; in many cases more distance to cover and so on. The problems are different and they can afford more than we can, but I think that between that and the situation as exists here, where we have absolutely no staff, that there is a wide gap indeed and that this is very important so far as the Opposition doing its work.

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . . Well now, I don't like going back into the old days, Mr. Chairman, and discussing what was done when, but there are occasions when this does provide some rather interesting comparisons. I'd like to quote from a report in the newspapers dated February 19, 1955, and the heading is "Secretary for Duff? Not now anyway," and it says, "Asks for funds. Mr. Roblin, during consideration of the Executive Council estimates which provides for the salary of the Premier and his immediate staff, asked that a sum be made available for him to hire a full-time secretary. Opposition Leader since last June, Mr. Roblin said in the short time he had occupied his new post he had found a very great need for that sort of assistance. Mr. Roblin noted the Leader of the Opposition in Ontario, in fact it's a Liberal, was provided with funds to hire a secretary by the Conservative government. His intimation was that there should be reciprocity here. He also observed Civil Service experts sat in the public gallery noting the mistakes made by Opposition members, and were available to cabinet ministers who required help to reply to the speeches". Now it seems to me Mr. Chairman, that the observations made by my honourable friend the Leader of the House in 1955 are still very much apropos in 1962. Consequently, in 1958 there was a change of government in this province, Mr. Chairman, much, in my opinion, to the disadvantage of the people of Manitoba. However at that stage there was another press clipping and it was entitled this time, "Will Mr. 'C' still say, 'no, no'?" And it went on to say, "Should ex-Premier D. L. Campbell have a government-paid secretary now that he is Leader of the Opposition? According to Mr. Campbell the answer is, no. According to Premier Duff Roblin the answer is, yes". Mr. Chairman, all I would like to point out at this time is that insofar as the present Leader of the Opposition is concerned the answer is yes, and I would hope that the Leader of the Government and my honourable friends from the Treasury benches would consider this request. I ask nothing for myself personally. I do think that in order to do a proper job that staff is required. My request is a secretary and a research assistant.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I must confess that the eloquent and moving appeal addressed to me by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has a familiar ring. I think that I probably made the same speech at the time that he mentions in 1955 though I doubt if my research work was quite as complete as his, but I think that when he has been Leader of the Opposition as long as I was he will realize how unnecessary his request really is, because I found out from experience that whether I had a secretary or whether I didn't really didn't make much difference. In fact, I think it did me a lot of good having to do a lot of the work myself, because then I knew what I was talking about. And that's more than one can say to some of the people who are advised by secretaries. No names no . . . . . But as far as that goes, Mr. Chairman, I think we have to recognize that there is no provision in these estimates, it is true, for the request that my honourable friend makes. The fact is that in all our appointments here, both Leader of the Opposition, members' indemnities and I think pay of the Executive Council, that we do not quite measure up to the standards that are set in almost all the other provinces in Canada, bar the Maritimes which are in a class by themselves, I'm afraid. I don't really think that we make the same provision here in that sense that other people do. And I remember very well the answer that I got on the occasion when I first made the statement attributed to me in 1955 by the then Premier. I didn't really appreciate it very much at the time but on reflection it wasn't so bad--it wasn't such bad advice after all. He said to me, "My boy, you have a party organization. If they can't supply you with one measly little secretary there's something wrong with your party". Now I don't think he said it in quite those words because he usually spoke a little more formally than I sometimes do--certainly than I do on this occasion. But he did point out to me that probably that was the responsibility which the political organization I had the honour to lead at that time should make itself responsible for. And they did. It wasn't very easy I'll admit. We had to go around and collect a couple of thousand dollars a year, but they did provide me with not only a secretary, I must say, but we even had an office outside this building which I occupied, and it seemed to work out all right. After all, one of our troubles is that we have difficulty about this business of Opposition leaders. If there were only one Opposition it might be a littler simpler--(interjection)--Well we've got a real Opposition and then we've got the official Opposition, so that's about the way it works. And then we've got neither the real Opposition nor the official Opposition who sits in the far corner over there. And the Honourable Member for Rhineland has a room of his own now, and I don't know what

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . . the next request will be but I imagine that it will be to keep in step with the other leaders of parties that are in the Legislature. I must say that I'm torn by mixed feelings on this point because I do remember my own request. I thought at the time it was reasonable; I'll say so frankly. But experience taught me that it really wasn't quite as necessary as I had thought at that time. It certainly didn't prevent us from winning the election, I'll say that. My appeal to my Party's supporters was simple, that if you think the Party is making a contribution, and I am as the Leader to the House and to the country, well you can supply me with a stenographer, and that's what they did. And that's the way we got around that problem. So I won't say that I'm not unsympathetic with my honourable friend but I must admit that there is no provision for it in these estimates.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, well I just want to comment on one of the points that my honourable friend made. He said that when he made the request on becoming Leader in 1955 he felt that this was needed, but by the time he had been in Opposition for some years, he realized that it really wasn't so. Well when my honourable friend, the Member for Lakeside, left the post across there and came over as Leader of the Opposition at that time the then Premier, Mr. Roblin, said that he would give him a secretary. This was 1958. All I'm asking for is that the commitment that was offered then be proceeded with now. And if he was prepared to do this in 1958 I don't see any reason why he should not be prepared to do it in 1962. He has saved that salary for the past four years and to go ahead and do it now would simply be proceeding on the basis of what he had said when he became Premier.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . to admit, Mr. Chairman, that the then Leader of the Opposition convinced me that he was right.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I'm inclined to support the suggestion of the Leader of the official Opposition. I think perhaps all the facilities should be given to any man who is leading the Opposition to be able to lead the Opposition properly, intelligently, and it's impossible for any human being to do it without any help, but at the same time I want to bring to your attention our plan. Now the Leader of the Opposition has 11 members and, as the First Minister says, the Leader of the real Opposition have 10 members. Now we only have a stenographer, or a secretary so to speak, during the session. Then in our own room we have nine other members and we have one person to look after all the demands of the others. Not having any experience--although she is a very fine woman--but not having any experience it's impossible for her to make research, to find files, to find information for all the nine members at the same time. So while I'm supporting the Leader of the Opposition I'd like you not to forget the poor orphan, my Leader, who has to do everything and perhaps has as much letters and as much information to hand out to the public as the official Leader. So while I'm not opposing the Leader of the Opposition getting a secretary for himself all year round--you know sometimes what the secretaries do when the boss is a little hard of hearing--she sits on his lap. So if consideration is given to one, please . . . .

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, I was surprised when the Premier stated a few minutes ago that he had changed his opinion since 1954, and that the Member for Lakeside has really convinced him that a Leader of the Opposition does not require some help. I was very much surprised and I doubt very much if the First Minister is sincere when he says that he has been convinced by the Member for Lakeside that such a position does not require help or assistance. Because, Mr. Chairman, anyone of us who studies really our parliamentary system based on parties in government and the party in Opposition knows that the job of the Opposition is a very important job and that to do the job help should be supplied to him. And I'm sure that the First Minister feels in his heart that he was right and he's been right on the top all the time with respect to the necessities of having a strong Opposition and giving the Opposition tools to do a job. Now I have differed with my former Leader the Member for Lakeside on this particular matter itself. I respect his opinion but I would like to state that I have differed with him on this question, and I felt at the time that when the First Minister now offered assistance to the Leader of the Opposition in 1958, that this offer should have been accepted by the Leader of the Opposition at that time, and I feel the same now, and I feel that the First Minister should offer to the present Leader some assistance which is so badly needed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c), passed; (d), passed; (e), passed. Resolution 1, passed.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . Mr. Chairman, that it's 11:00 o'clock, but before the Committee

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . . rise, may I say that I think an understanding has been reached that we shall proceed with government business first thing tomorrow afternoon and that we shall not sit tomorrow night as a result of that. And if that is the agreement, if that meets the wishes of members of the House, then we'll proceed on that basis and not sit tomorrow night.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, we'd be agreeable to do that. I think there are a lot of members from the country wh'd like to take the opportunity to go home. I'd just like to make one point, Mr. Chairman. Could we leave (e)--Operation of Recording Equipment--open. I have some comments to make on that. It's 11:00 o'clock and I could do them tomorrow.

MR. PAULLEY: I think it's necessary for me to say that I understand that the Whips have got together, and as far as I'm concerned, my group will agree to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions and directed me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

MR. W. G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Friday afternoon.