

agree with it. Personally I feel that we cannot do too much for these people who toiled and supported a family, all of them raised large families, and contributed so much towards the general revenue of this country, that we should go on, as far as possible, increasing the amounts paid the old age pensioners. We know we have not reached the stage yet where we have done anything like full justice to these people. But they are, Mr. Smallwood, they are as I see it very stringent qualifications. You can get the pension, yes sure, providing your property is not valued at over \$2,000, but...

Mr. Smallwood No, no. You can get the pension if your income each year is not over \$600. Your yearly income must be \$600 before you are barred from getting the old age pension. If it is \$500 a year then you get \$100 pension. If your income is \$400 a year then you get \$200 pension a year. You have got to have an income of \$600 a year all your own before you are barred from the old age pension.

Mr. Chairman Now then, the other point Mr. Vardy wants to know is whether or not the question of your property enters into it at all. Is there any question of assessment where the property occupied by the pensioner does not exceed \$2,000?

Mr. Smallwood No sir, it does not matter what the property of a man is, once he reaches the age of 70, providing his income from that property does not go over \$600 a year. It does not matter if it is worth \$10,000.

Mr. Hickman Could Mr. Smallwood tell us what part of the act that \$2,000 refers to?

Mr. Smallwood I am glad Mr. Hickman raised that. If Mr. Vardy does not mind there, the position is this: there is an Old Age Pensions Act. Here it is. There was an amendment passed to it by the Parliament while we were in Ottawa. Here is it, July 1947, and then here are the statutory orders and regulations made under the Old Age Pensions Act, and it is the regulations that govern the conditions under which the whole thing is carried out. Now these regulations are made by the interprovincial Old Age Pensions Authority. Every province has its own old age pensions authority, say three men appointed to administer old age pensions. Every province has that. Now on top of all of them there is an interprovincial Old Age Pension Authority, made up of provin-

cial authorities. They meet once or twice a year, and every province is represented in it. They meet once or twice a year to decide all questions under the act, but the actual carrying out of it is done in the province itself by the provincial authority, and the figure that has been fixed throughout the entire Dominion by the interprovincial authority, made up of all the nine provinces (ten if we were in) is \$2,000 per house. Not house only, but house, land, boats and any property a man has, must be worth \$2,000 or more, before that part of it comes in at all.

Mr. Chairman Mr. Hickman's question is when and how was that arbitrary figure of \$2,000 arrived at.

Mr. Smallwood Well, sir, I have the act in my pocket.

Mr. Hickman It is not in the act.

Mr. Smallwood No; the act cannot cover everything, so they set up regulations under the act, like all acts of Parliament the very act itself gives the authority, who are going to administer the act, power to make regulations under the act. These regulations must not be different from the act itself. Well, to make these regulations there is this interprovincial authority, made up of all the old age pensions authorities of all the provinces. They make the regulations and they meet once or twice a year for that purpose, and all the provinces are represented in it. Here's the actual memo....

Mr. Hickman Is that binding on every province?

Mr. Smallwood Yes, because all the provinces are represented in the Interprovincial Pensions Authority. If Newfoundland were a province it would be represented in it too, and it is binding on all provinces.

Mr. Vardy I take it, Mr. Smallwood, that the federal government subscribes 75%, and the provincial government 25%?

Mr. Smallwood Yes. If you will allow me — the provincial government can subscribe as much as it likes. For instance in the province of Ontario today the old age pension is \$40 a month, but the federal government only contributes \$22.50 a month, and the rest is paid by the province. The province could make it \$50 a month, but the federal government only gives \$22.50. You see? Is that clear?

Mr. Vardy Let's get down to realities now, Mr.