

[English]

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has raised a very valid point, that there was an apparent understanding that the House would extend its sitting from ten o'clock until eleven o'clock. We have now gone beyond that time.

[Translation]

In other words, the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is to the effect that the House agree on the exact time at which the question will be put.

Does the House agree to proceed until 11.20?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[English]

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, we are in agreement. But I would attach to that agreement, and I hope this does not confuse Your Honour, the condition that if there is a vote by any strange circumstance, it be deferred until tomorrow.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for St. John Lancaster (Mr. Bell) suggests that, if there is to be a vote, it be held tomorrow, or at some other time than tonight.

[English]

Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Lotbinière and all other hon. members agree that at 11:20 the debate be interrupted by the Chair to put the question and if, by any chance, there should be a vote, that this vote be deferred.

For the time being, we shall have the pleasure of hearing the hon. member for Joliette.

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, in my opening remarks I should like to remind the house leaders of each party that when there is a proposed agreement between the parties on a time limit, the independent members should be called and advised accordingly.

The hon. member for Saint-Michel (Miss Bégin), I think, reminds me that a party is useful, but people forget that I nevertheless have been sent here by the electors of a riding, and this in a very definite and clear way. In view of this mandate, I fully intend to take advantage of my privileges to state that agreements are always reached among parties without my being advised.

I should like to remark, Mr. Speaker, that I for one cannot accept that business be adjourned at 11:20 or 11:21. Any way, I have a few words to say and so perhaps have other hon. members, but I remind those responsible in the various parties that when there is a discussion about agreeing on a time limit, they must not forget to contact the present speaker, because there are 18,000 voters who have asked him to come here and express their feelings.

Mr. Speaker—

### Old Age Security Act

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think the hon. member should be reminded that there are two independent members in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** It was assumed that the hon. member was speaking on behalf of both independent members.

• (2310)

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** In my turn, I would say to the hon. member that I did say: the independents.

I want to make it clear that I have no trouble getting information from my colleague.

I would like to take advantage of this debate which, according to certain people, is going too far but which, to me, is a most serious and important debate. Contrary to those who blamed the Creditiste members for wasting the House's time, I commend them for fighting this battle today in the House and for emphasizing more than ever the importance of retirement at 60.

Even though it might be thought that there are few advantages outside a party, I have the advantage of being able to speak objectively and tonight I can congratulate my friends to my right, while others will only criticize them, because tonight they deserve it. They are raising an important question. They have decided to make the minister and this government aware of the importance of old age security at 60.

Besides, we all know that a great majority of hon. members would be in favour of old age security at 60 were it not for party lines. We should not go beyond that even though the principle is quite valid and justified.

Therefore, I would like also to commend the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) who admitted—

**Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member for Joliette but the hon. member for Longueuil is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Speaker, the member for Joliette suggests that members who belong to a party have their arms twisted so that they will remain silent or represent their constituents unsatisfactorily. I wish to point out to the hon. member for Joliette that even those who belong to a party can speak and do so without creating a commotion.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I heard the remark of the hon. member for Longueuil and when he says that he can express his views as member of a party, I hope that he will do it on the very important bill now under consideration.

I would like to congratulate the member for Timiskaming who readily acknowledged the validity of the proposals made by the Social Credit Party of Canada today but which were rejected. I was pleased just the same to note that those suggestions were discussed as they contain some opinions which I have personally upheld in this