

• (12 noon)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

STATUTE LAW (SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS) AMENDMENT ACT, 1970

MEASURE TO SUPPLEMENT PENSIONS

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-194, to provide supplementary retirement benefits for certain persons in receipt of pensions payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and to amend certain Acts which provide for the payment of those pensions, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee of Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

Mr. Macdonald: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions in connection with the motions which a number of hon. members have set down, and since I have to attend a meeting in Ottawa this afternoon which would make it difficult for me to be present when motion No. 10 is put to the House, I wonder whether the House would agree to putting it first in order that I might be present.

Mr. Speaker: Before that is done, the hon. member might give the Chair an opportunity to explain the result of a consideration which has been given to the marshalling and disposal of these report stage motions which now have to be considered.

Hon. members will notice there are 16 notices of motions proposing to amend Bill C-194. For the purpose of consideration of the proposed motions, it is suggested that when motion numbered 1 is proposed by the Chair, debate be permitted on motions numbered 1 to 8 inclusive. When that debate is concluded, a division on motion numbered 1 will be deferred.

Motions numbered 2 to 8 inclusive will then be put separately from the Chair, without debate or amendment. For the purpose of voting thereon, the said motions will be grouped and set down for a single division thereon. That division also will be deferred.

When motion numbered 9 is proposed, it is suggested that debate also be permitted at that stage in relation to the proposed motion numbered 10. When that debate is concluded, it is suggested that the recorded division on motion numbered 9, if requested, be deferred.

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At this stage, motion number 10 will be put from the Chair, but without debate or amendment. The question thereon will be forthwith deferred.

When motion numbered 11 has been proposed by the Chair, it is suggested that consideration of motions numbered 12 to 16 also be permitted at that stage. When that debate is concluded, motions numbered 12 to 16 inclusive would then be put separately from the Chair without debate. All of the said motions will then be grouped and disposed of in one recorded division. In all, there might be five recorded divisions as follows: (a) on motion No. 1; (b) another on motions Nos. 2 to 8 inclusive; (c) one on motion No. 9; (d) one on motion No. 10; and (e) a further division on motions Nos. 11 to 16 inclusive.

As hon. members will judge, it was a little difficult to try to organize the consideration of these several motions. I hope that these suggestions will be acceptable to hon. members, but all of what I have said will be subject to the suggestion just made by the hon. President of the Privy Council, the Government House Leader, that he might be allowed to make a statement on his amendment at the start of the debate.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I find your proposal eminently fair and satisfactory, and I am sure it will commend itself to the House as being logical. I should like to make a suggestion with respect to the request that has been made by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald). I am prepared to agree that he be accommodated so that he can present the amendment in his name this morning, but there are two considerations that I think we have to look at. First of all, we do not want to add to the number of debates; I take it from Your Honour's suggestion that there will be three debates. Also, it would be impossible, as I see it, to take a vote on motion No. 10 until a decision has been made on motion No. 9.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I suggest, if the President of the Privy Council is agreeable and Your Honour regards it as fair, that the President of the Privy Council be permitted now to move his motion No. 10 and to make his remarks thereon, but that other remarks be deferred until we have the combined debate on motions 9 and 10 with, of course, the vote being deferred until later. In other words, I suggest we give precedence to the President of the Privy Council to make his