

An hon. member: Be careful.

Mr. Speaker: I heard somebody say: "Be careful". I think it was said to the Chair and I accept it as assistance.

There is a great temptation sometimes for the Chair to put on another hat. I am going to refrain from that and resist the temptation for the moment. I think the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond has summed up pretty carefully and accurately the remarks of the Chair.

I ruled that the matter is procedurally before us. It is procedurally acceptable.

If members feel that it might be appropriate to delay or as I said to defeat it, then that of course is for the House to do.

That of course is something which is entirely for the House to do and it is not something for the Speaker to suggest or favour or to reject.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker I want to thank the Chair and I want to thank the Table for the preparation of the decision.

I had asked on several occasions to have this decision completed expeditiously. I hope that my interventions were not interpreted by the Chair nor by the able representatives at the Table as trying to be a nuisance to them and to the Chair. I did believe then as I do believe now that this is a very substantive point with regard to the procedural aspects of the House of Commons. I wish to thank the Chair. I will not reflect on the decision in the House but I do want to thank the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I will say to the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond first of all as I indicated it is a complicated and difficult issue. It was most properly raised. I can only say that I am sorry that we were not able to come with a ruling a day or so earlier. I appreciate what the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond has said in appreciating how much work went in this decision. The officers of the Table have been of great assistance to me in coming down with a decision which gave me some trouble indeed.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I do not want this opportunity to pass without adding my thanks to the Table and to the Speaker for making such a difficult ruling and spending to much time and effort on it. We are pleased

Government Orders

to find that this particular process is procedurally within the bounds of the House of Commons.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, may I pose a question to my distinguished colleague the parliamentary secretary and friend to the government House leader. Note the word "distinguished".

Mr. Speaker: I just want to remind the hon. member from Cape Breton—East Richmond that I use the term generously.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, it was used on me one time but the person that was giving the remark called it "extinguished". I would like to ask the parliamentary secretary in view of the decision which has been rendered by the Chair if he would give serious consideration to withdrawing Part III of Bill C-35?

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to my hon. friend in view of the Speaker's ruling there are obviously a number of options available to the government and to the House and I would not want at this point to preclude any of them.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. John C. Crosbie (for the Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that Bill C-39, an act to amend the Canada Pension Plan, the Family Allowances Act and the Old Age Security Act, be read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Debate.

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak on Bill C-39 at third reading. I wish to convey to this House the regrets of the Minister of National Health and Welfare for the unavoidable absence here today. He is most regretful.