

the House. Not a single word was uttered this afternoon and tonight we are being accused because five members have introduced motions on old age security pensions.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member goes beyond the question of privilege originally raised. He is referring to a matter which was dealt with yesterday. I must say that the Chair has been preoccupied with the motion presented by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau). I have not heard all that has been said, but I gather from what I have heard that the blows are about equal.

I hope hon. members will not consistently rise on questions of privilege which are really matters of debate. I will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Though I want to respect the privileges of the hon. member for Lotbinière, I would like to go on and say, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wagner:—I would like to go on and say, Mr. Speaker, that our friends of the Social Credit party have certainly not been guilty of benign "proceduritis" but I would say malignant "proceduritis" because when they were putting forward this shower of motions and amendments, and rising on points of order of all kinds, I wondered whether they were being ingenuous, unaware of the standing Orders or knowingly delaying the passage of this legislation.

And when I read through similar amendments, practically word for word, which were moved in this House on December 17, 1970 and which one can read on page 2162 of *Hansard*, when I find that the decisions of the Speaker were known by our colleagues of the Social Credit party, I wonder—though the Standing Orders prevent me from questioning faith—to what extent one may consider that they were earnest in the way they acted here. I will tell them of course that we have been ashamed by the way they have acted, but we are used to it.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Lotbinière was asking us a moment ago what is our position as regards the elderly. I will send him the text of the statement I made in this House on March 2, a copy of which has been distributed to all my constituents in the riding of Saint-Hyacinthe. I will send a copy to the hon. member for Lotbinière so that he be well aware of the fact that we, on this side of the House, are concerned about the welfare of elder people; we want the government to treat them with utmost justice; we want the government—

[English]

Mr. Lalonde: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that all those who have spoken tonight have expressed concern for the aged and a desire to see this bill pass as soon as possible, I wonder, since everyone has had a good opportunity to express their views on the subject, whether we might not agree to put the question now.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Old Age Security Act

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I would like, with the support of my colleagues, to propose that the House continue to sit until the passage of this bill which is extremely important. We are willing to co-operate.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I for one would like to suggest, on behalf of my colleagues, that the question be put if need be, at ten o'clock, for in two minutes I will be through with my remarks.

Mr. Fortin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe would—

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe would follow the debate, he would know that the House has not before it the motion of the hon. member for Shefford, concerning which the Chair has held up its decision and that consequently he cannot propose that the question be put at ten o'clock.

We agree unanimously to continue the proceedings to allow Mr. Speaker to rule whether our motion is in order; we agree that the vote be taken tonight in order to ensure that all parties in the House do like the Social Credit and work in favour of old people so that this problem may be settled once and for all.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. If it will help hon. members to feel better, I can advise the House that I shall be ready to render my decision in another five or ten minutes. I have the names of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) and the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin) as wishing to take part in the debate. I see more hands raised. I am not obliged to see the clock until somebody tells me what time it is. Did an hon. member say it was ten o'clock?

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Lotbinière for this lesson in procedure and moreover I recognize that I am not as good as him in "procedurology."

Mr. Speaker, I was saying a few moments ago that although my colleagues and myself find that the increases proposed by the government are quite inadequate, we recognize that they constitute nevertheless a progress by which senior citizens will be able to profit as soon as possible. Along with all the other members, I think that it is desirable that one day we will be able to lower the age of eligibility to the old age security pension to 60. This is the direction in which we want to work and we will support the bill which is now before us.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, procedural subtleties should not be an obstacle to legitimate rights. Unfortunately—I said it at the beginning and I shall conclude my remarks by repeating it, the show which our colleagues of the Social Credit