

Income Tax Act

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the support of the hon. member for Bow River. I suppose that altogether, those of us who are in the House could not produce a great number of cases, but when it does happen that an employee is denied his or her Canada Pension Plan benefit because the employer has not sent in the money, it is a serious situation and the law ought to be written so as to correct it.

I would still like an answer to my question with regard to what happens when the employer does not have any money coming to him from the government from which deductions can be made. I hope that the parliamentary secretary will speak to his minister about the matter. I would also ask him to ask his minister to speak to the Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, because those two ministers are responsible for the administration of the Canada Pension Plan. If there are even half a dozen cases where individual Canadians are having trouble collecting their Canada Pension Plan benefits because of a failure on the part of the employer, then that situation should be corrected.

Mr. Ritchie (York East): Mr. Chairman, I will pass on the request made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre to the two ministers involved. It is precisely because they are involved that I am not really able to give the hon. member an answer about what happens to the employee's pension position if the employer has not only neglected to send in the contributions deducted, but there is no money for retribution after the full force of this law has been applied. This provision merely ensures that there are greater penalties for the employer who violates it. I suppose, though, that it is meaningless if he has no resources.

Clause 70 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall the bill carry?

Mr. Breau: Mr. Chairman, the limit of time which we took to consider this bill on second reading and in Committee of the Whole indicates that my party is co-operative and interested in getting the legislative program of the government through. It proves that what the Prime Minister and the President of the Privy Council have suggested, that we are trying to frustrate the workings of the House, is not true. In a matter of only two or three days of debate a very complex bill has gone through second reading, and this proves that we are a co-operative opposition. We are waiting for the government to bring down the budget and its many good measures which will help the economy of this country.

Mr. Corbett: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak very briefly on the passing of this bill.

Mr. Knowles: Let's do it on third reading.

Mr. Corbett: If you will just bear with me, Mr. Chairman, I am certain that you will endorse what I have to say. It deals particularly with clause 46. I would like to draw to the attention of the House for the record the strides forward that

[Mr. Ritchie.]

this particular provision provides in a social context for Canadians. It deals with the provision that was previously brought in by the former administration in the April, 1978 budget whereby the people who were disabled—

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I do not think we would like to establish a precedent by having the hon. member for Fundy-Royal speak at this time. Perhaps his comments should have been made when clause 46 was being discussed.

Shall I report the bill?

Mr. Knowles: On division.

Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read the third time? Now or at the next sitting of the House?

Mr. Knowles: By leave, now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: By leave, now?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Crosbie moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I just want to draw to the attention of the House the co-operative spirit in which this particular bill received passage and what it does to those people who had been previously denied access to their RRSPs. I am speaking specifically of those people under the age of 60 years who have been physically deformed or disabled through stroke or some other disability.

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I want to register some surprise that during the passage of this bill, this type of provision being very much in accord with the type of legislation that is normally espoused, particularly by the New Democratic Party, that there was not some mention made by them that this is progressive legislation which takes into very deep consideration the social needs and difficulties experienced by minority groups in this country.

I think it is also to the credit of the previous administration in so far as it has been recognized by them during the previous session, that there was a deficiency in the budget brought down by the former minister of finance in April, 1978. After this was brought to his attention by members of our party on November 7, 1978, I believe the current provisions were included in the bill in recognition of this very special group of people who cannot or could not otherwise fend for themselves.

As a member representing Fundy-Royal and as a supporter of the government, I want to show my appreciation that social concerns and social legislation of this nature can be brought forward by a party and a government that is dedicated to the free enterprise system.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!