

Health and Welfare

I think the suggestions made by hon. members in respect of the bulk sale of drugs, and the fact that our older citizens in one form or another should be able to secure prescription drugs which they need, are very worth-while and, if nothing else is accomplished by this debate, should at least indicate to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) that the members of this House are very concerned about this problem and wish him to take steps to guarantee that the people of this country will not lose their lives because of their inability to secure the drugs they need to maintain their health.

That is all I have to contribute to the debate. I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys for his interest in this very basic problem which faces so many of our elderly citizens. Also, I congratulate the other members of the House who have participated in this debate up to now.

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. member who was good enough to move this motion. It is certainly in order, and it is one of which we approve. We would very much like to see all these things done, particularly to ensure that the most urgent needs of the elderly are met.

The hon. member was inspired to introduce this motion by the great poverty that now exists. We do not have enough time to discuss the causes of this poverty, but we know that our senior citizens have done all they could to build an economy to serve their own and future generations.

They were left with nothing as everything they build does not belong to them anymore. They built and devel-

oped our country piece by piece but lost everything they had to those who took control over exchange. Those who conceived and implemented our monetary system and who are depriving every Canadian of his property as he builds it up are to blame for the fact that elderly people have nothing left. That is why most of them do not have enough to meet their needs even with higher pensions and welfare allowances because the cost of living is rising. As a matter of fact all those presently on pensions are already asking for pensions increases as they can no longer buy drugs, pay their rent, their food and whatever else they have to pay in order to survive, and most of them are running deeper into debt.

That is one of the reasons why the hon. member brought in this motion and why we second it. Even though I would have many things to say, Mr. Speaker, I will resume my seat before five o'clock so we may have an opportunity to put the motion.

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): Mr. Speaker, we must certainly admit that the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir) has put forward a valid motion.

In my opinion, governments at whatever level should perhaps stop legislating temporarily on matters such as the one raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys, in order to try to improve existing legislation, for the benefit of the entire population and above all for citizens over sixty-five.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. The hour for consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock, the House will adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.