

And rightly so, Mr. Speaker, because I think that our public sector pension plans in Canada are much more soundly based. We started early on a universal scheme which is nation-wide, and I think we are in a better position for the future.

Then we hear other voices, such as some of the provinces that like to be able to borrow money out of the Canada Pension Plan fund at a low rate of interest, making statements about the fact that not very far down the road the rates that Canadians will have to pay under the Canada Pension Plan will have to be increased not just to protect their pension position but to provide low borrowing rates for the provinces.

Then we hear voices of other groups that just do not like universal pensions, universal family allowances, groups that are still saying that these things should be done away with and that payments should be made only in cases of need.

I submit that all of these matters call for the kinds of studies that are taking place in the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Finance, but time creeps up on us very fast and we could be in trouble. Some of these plans could fail to achieve all the things that we hoped they would achieve. Instead of waiting until there is a crisis, I think an over-all study by a public inquiry or a commission is something that the minister and his colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald), should establish, and would bring credit upon themselves for doing so.

The minister knows that I think we have to move more in the direction of the, Old Age Security Act and the Canada Pension Plan providing almost entirely for the retirement years of our people. I think the Canada Pension Plan has to be enlarged. It has to take over a good deal of what the private sector is now doing. However, that is part of what should be studied, so I leave it at that.

I confess that I have included in what I have said tonight some of my own ideas as to what ought to be done now. I think my proposals should be implemented. However, the main burden of my making these remarks tonight and the reason I am particularly glad the minister is here, and I appreciate his staying for the late show, is that I seriously think that the idea of an over-all study of pension policy is overdue. I hope that tonight the minister will open the door even a little wider to such a study.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my answer on April 2, the issue of a review of public and private pension policy is currently under study by the government.

Officials from my department, along with officials of the Department of Finance and the department of insurance, are currently preparing a situation report on pension policy for cabinet. This report will review all available information on current pension policy and programs. The review by the officials will take into account such issues as those raised in studies prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development and others. On receipt of that report my colleagues and I will consider what steps should be taken to assist in the future development of policies dealing with retirement issues.

#### *Adjournment Debate*

No decision has been taken one way or another with regard to implementing a more ambitious study, either within government or public inquiry or review. I am not ruling out such possibilities, but such a decision would only be made following an examination of the report prepared by our officials.

The hon. member stressed tonight some urgency on the issue. I submit to him that before embarking on a broad ranging royal commission type of study which we might not need, there would be some merit in assessing whether we can arrive at conclusions much faster and by a less elaborate way. I need only refer the hon. member to the experience with the Carter Commission. From the time the commission started until the legislation was finally implemented, a span of almost ten years had elapsed. Also, the final project was much different from what came out of the commission. The hon. member has been in the House much longer than I. He knows as well as I do that royal commissions are not exactly the panacea given this type of situation or problem.

The desire is to put into effect improvements in the area of pensions in Canada. Several have resulted from the social security review. I have no doubt that there are still several important issues to be dealt with and I hope this can be done rather speedily.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Hear, hear!

#### AIR TRANSPORT—THREATENED STRIKE OF SAFETY OPERATIONS GROUP—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ASSURE CONTINUED OPERATIONS

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak on the air safety inspector walkout. I find it strange that neither the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) nor his parliamentary secretary are here. I can only assume that there is some secretary here who has nothing to do with this subject at all.

I will have to put on the record two questions to the Minister of Transport. First, in view of the fact that Transport Canada's involvement and authority in air carrier inspection arose out of recommendations contained in Justice Gibson's report of January 29, 1971, into the DC-8 crash of July 5, 1970, at Toronto, why, contrary to these recommendations, has Transport Canada surrendered this authority to the very airline that was subject of this inquiry in the first place, Air Canada?

Second, if at the time this authority was surrendered to Air Canada the minister was unaware that this policy of having Transport Canada Civil Aviation inspectors supervise airline inspection arose out of recommendations contained in Justice Gibson's report, can he assure this House that the authority granted Air Canada on April 2, 1976, will be revoked?

A message from Transport Canada dated April 2, 1976, stated that they were proposing the appointment of chief flying instructors as air carrier designated examiners. It further stated it has been decided to institute a trial program for a period of up to 12 months. This is definitely a move to replace safety inspectors who are on strike. These Air Canada appointments are an obvious attempt at strike breaking by the Liberal government, especially by the