

of living covered in advance for several years, but our old age pensioners have to wait until several months have gone by before they get an increase that does not equal even then the rise that they have already suffered in the cost of living. I contend, Mr. Speaker, that the Old Age Security Act should be amended in this parliament to provide for a pension that is adequate, and that provisions should be made for those pensions to escalate, certainly quarterly but also on a basis that will enable people in the coming quarter to meet the rising cost of living in that quarter. Getting increases in arrears at a time when they do not help to meet current problems is adding insult to injury. For the government House leader to stand up today, exuding the Christmas spirit and boasting that the government has a good record and has given leadership in the days this parliament has been in session, is a mockery of the facts.

We are glad there is going to be a recess, Mr. Speaker. This place needs it after the way it has been behaving this week. There are things that members now have to take to their constituents and find out what they think—about one bill in particular. I hope that when we come back in 1975 to continue this session, we will have a record of progress at least ten times as great as we have had in these few weeks; otherwise it will not be worth another of these speeches by the government House leader when the end of it comes.

Mr. Speaker, having said that—not as strongly as I would have liked, because I am disappointed in the leadership the government has given, disappointed in the lack of legislation to meet our problems, disappointed in the way that a government that paid some attention to the opposition in the minority days now has all its arrogance back—I hope the government has learned a lesson this week and realizes that there are some things it cannot get away with. What is important in this parliament is not just that we stop things that are wrong, but that we get things that are right. I hope the government will take that to heart in 1975.

● (1130)

Having said that, may I thank the government House leader again for having initiated this debate.

**Mr. Allmand:** Stanley, would you permit a question?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Would the hon. member address his remarks to Mr. Speaker, and not to "Stanley."

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question—

**An hon. Member:** Why don't you wait for the question period?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has the floor. I was under the impression he was concluding his remarks. Perhaps the question could be asked at the conclusion of his remarks.

### *Christmas Recess*

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I would love to hear the question. After all, at this time we are usually in the middle of the question period.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, does the hon. member not realize that of our 58 sitting days, 26 were taken up with opposition days, the budget and the Speech from the Throne?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Judging from all that has been done on government days, all our sitting days could as well have been allocated to the opposition. I gather from the question that somehow the government does not like the fact that the opposition has allocated to it opposition days in this House.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** How much is there on the order paper right now? How many measures are on it that would advance the economy and well-being of this country? I was at the end of my remarks in that vein, Mr. Speaker. I was about to conclude, unless hon. members feel that this is the question period, because it is now 11.30 and perhaps some of them would like to put questions to me. I don't mind.

I thank the government House leader for starting this debate. Every member can participate, if he wants to. It gives me the opportunity once again to say on behalf of all members of my party that, whatever our differences of opinion may be—and certainly we have our differences—we extend our warmest greetings for Christmas and the New Year—

**Mr. Alexander:** Thanks.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I heard someone say "Thanks." We extend our warmest greetings for Christmas and the New Year to Your Honour and to all hon. members, and I accept the thanks I heard being extended to me.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I feel it is my duty to take part in what looks increasingly more like a debate on the effectiveness of House proceedings during the first session of this 30th Parliament.

I listened most attentively to the remarks the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) has made on the effectiveness of these proceedings and the expected results of the bills adopted by the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, there are always two faces to every coin. Several bills have indeed been adopted by the House. However, it remains that there are 39 other bills still on the order paper and waiting to be examined by members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, because of these 39 bills that are pending, when the House is about to adjourn, we are justified in questioning the effectiveness of Parliament.

As members of the Social Credit Party, we are aware of the need for streamlining this institution called Canadian Parliament with procedures which are truly our own, not imported from foreign parliaments, in order to attain