

I can assure honourable senators that I have watched the legislative process as it has developed in a slightly different way in the last two years in the House of Commons, which is fine. However, in this same period of time, we have also witnessed that the backlog has not been eased, nor has the process been streamlined.

I am sure that Senator Murray, ahead of me, often made this suggestion: Can we not introduce some of this legislation in the Senate? Obviously, some matters cannot be introduced in this place, but others can. This is something I have been discussing, and I am quite prepared to do so even more vigorously.

In the first week of this Parliament, two initiatives have turned out to be landmark efforts. One was the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide headed by Senators Neiman and Lavoie-Roux, and the other was the special reference to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples of the long overdue question of aboriginal veterans' pensions.

In any event our standing committees are adequately set up to deal with some of these issues and present the kinds of reports that provide a body of evidence and also an opportunity for Canadians to bring forward their ideas. It is a proposition that I am enthusiastic about, and I will carry it forward as best I can.

**Hon. Marcel Prud'homme:** Honourable senators, I know there are things we can do. Senator Fairbairn pointed them out. I, for one, will take the words of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and I will be satisfied when I see something coming. We have the authority if we want to use it. All we need is the leadership. I cannot exercise such authority by myself. I cannot even find someone to second my motion. However, if other senators rise, I would second the motion that this matter be sent to the appropriate committee.

If need be, we will strike a special committee solely for the purpose of looking into the question of pensions and double dipping. This would demystify for the Canadian population what this issue is all about. It would show them what double dipping means, who receives it, who should be deprived of it. Why should we, in the interests of Canada, continue to allow double dipping for someone who would otherwise not offer their services to Canada?

• (1520)

I would be more than happy to know that the minister concurs in this line of thinking, and to have her commitment that we need not refer this matter back to cabinet. She may refer everything back to cabinet, but then she will refer it back to us again, saying that the message has been sent but that there is not much action.

We can act here. I was watching all senators while I was speaking. Senator Fairbairn, you may be surprised at the number of people who will see you privately to comment on this matter. I suspect that this same opinion is held by a few members of your own party, a few members of the official opposition, and others. I must call myself an "other."

**Senator Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, to restate the point I made, the initiatives on euthanasia and on aboriginal veterans'

pensions were commenced in the Senate, and they were welcomed by the government.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** It was moved by the Honourable Senator Graham, seconded by the Honourable Senator Stanbury, that this bill be read a third time now.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**An Hon. Senator:** On division.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed, on division.

### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved the third reading of Bill C-92, to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

### CRIMINAL CODE

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved third reading of Bill C-72, to amend the Criminal Code (self-induced intoxication).

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

### OLD AGE SECURITY ACT CANADA PENSION PLAN CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCES ACT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved the third reading of Bill C-54, to amend the Old Age Security Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Children's Special Allowances Act, and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

[Translation]

### ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT BILL, 1995

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ADOPTED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the fourteenth report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional