

Old Age Security Act

people of low income or no income at all because of the unavailability of employment.

I want to repeat what my friend, the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) said at the conclusion of her speech. This Bill must be amended in committee to make it just and fair. I know that will be more costly, and I have quoted the figures already, but we will have to do it. We will have to make our cuts somewhere else.

All Members of this House know that the deficit looms large and is threatening. There must be fiscal responsibility, but in restoring some measure of balance between revenues and expenditures, we must take the greatest of care not to hurt those who cannot defend themselves. We must take the greatest care to assist those in deep and painful need. Let us pass Bill C-26, but not as it is. Send it to committee, amend it and include the other two very needy groups of persons aged 60 to 65, those who never married and those who are divorced or separated and find themselves in equal need to those who are married and those who are divorced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Epp (Provencher), seconded by Mr. Hnatyshyn, moves that Bill C-26, an Act to Amend the Old Age Security Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Wealth and Social Affairs. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

An Hon. Member: On division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

An Hon. Member: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion, the yeas have it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gauthier: On division!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion carried, on division.

[*English*]

Accordingly, the Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Friday, February 1, 1985, consideration of the motion of Mr. Masse that Bill C-20, an Act to Amend the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Act, The Broadcasting Act and the Radio Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to look at this Bill. In the time available to me, and I believe we are now down to 10 minutes per speech, I will not be able to comment at length. However, there are couple of points certainly worth looking at.

While my Party supports the general principle of this Bill and while my colleague, the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald) emphatically stated her support of the initiative in this Bill with relation to the sexual stereotyping in broadcasting, we still have some concerns over the manner in which directives are to be given to the CRTC and the manner in which the Cabinet is now taking upon itself delegated power to deregulate according to the principles of Bill C-20.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. For the benefit of the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre, I believe the Table will confirm that we are still under the 20 minute rule for interventions in this debate at this stage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is 20 minutes.

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that case, I will perhaps speak at some greater length. There is an important innovation here. I am not yet familiar with enough federal legislation to know to what extent this has been drawn from models elsewhere, but at least some effort has been given in this Bill to look at ways by which political responsibility can properly be taken where a Crown agency is concerned.

The situation which has prevailed until now with the CRTC has been that it has in fact been given, in my opinion and the opinion of my Party, too great a control over the telecommunications and broadcasting policy in this country in a way that effectively Parliament and the Government divested itself of powers that should be in the hands of Government. That does not mean that the CRTC cannot carry out a great deal of work in terms of looking at appeals and questions that come before it.

With respect to broadcasting policy, telecommunications policy and the kind of telephone system that we are to have, the issues are too important and touch too many Canadians for the matter to be simply delegated into the hands of a Crown agency, the chairman of which is quite often appointed as a favour by the Government of the day, somebody whose political credentials may in fact exceed his or her knowledge of what may be required in terms of communications policy. We must leave the matter until it is reconsidered once every five or