

Canada Pension Plan

attempts to upgrade our labour force. However, we are also faced with the necessity to abstract from our labour force aging workers who, through their own efforts and those of all of us, can provide for their older years. This pension plan means that the bounty of automation will not exact too great a price for older workers. We are not as yet really facing the challenge of obsolescence in the skills of our workers. Every day thousands now working are finding their means of livelihood destroyed because the skills that have stood them in good stead for most of their adult lives have become obsolete. In part, this can be met by retraining, but for many of the older workers it will be necessary to withdraw them from the labour market in dignity and with security.

This is the greatest aspect of the Canada pension plan; we are protecting the dignity and the self-respect of our workers. We not only give them a greater mobility by ensuring the portability of pensions, but we are saying: In your declining years it is not to the state which you are looking but to the provisions which through the state you were able to make for yourself, together with the contribution of your employer, to security and well-being.

If we have moved from the patriarchal society to a highly individualized community, the older worker is entitled to all the dignity which his son, who with his skill and his two arms is able to provide for his wife and children and himself, has in his prime. Not through the toleration of his children, but through his own provision, the older worker can hold his head high and face his later years with a sense of dignity and well-being.

Our problems do not end here. We shall have to give thought to organizing the leisure which a society of automation affords us. We shall have to make it creative and satisfying. Canada has a challenging present and a great future, and the Canada pension plan is a step towards its realization.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the minister a question before we proceed any further; she can deal with it when she is replying. Can the minister tell us whether she has any assurance from the nine provinces that they will participate in the plan at this stage?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the minister speaks now she would, of course, be closing the debate.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I was seeking to ask the hon. member who has just con-

[Mr. Gelber.]

cluded his speech whether he would permit a question before he took his seat.

Mr. Gelber: Certainly.

Mr. Barnett: I listened with interest to his speech and I noted that earlier in his remarks he made reference to the generation of Canadians who were in the prime of their earning years when they were caught in the holocaust of the great depression. I should like to ask the hon. member whether he would not have to agree that it is precisely that generation of Canadians for whom we are not making provision in this bill, because of the age they have now reached.

Mr. Gelber: I would say it depends how old they were then.

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

Some hon. Members: Question.

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

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those against the said motion please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

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

And five members having risen:

Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, I and my colleagues would like to record a vote.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Call in the members.

Mr. Churchill: It is too late.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No; the Chair did not declare the motion carried. I called for yeas and nays, and five members having stood the Chair has to call in the members.

The house divided on the motion (Miss LaMarsh) which was agreed to on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

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| Aiken | Berger |
| Armstrong | Blouin |
| Asselin (Notre Dame de Grâce) | Boulanger |
| Badanal | Brewin |
| Baldwin | Brown |
| Barnett | Byrne |
| Basford | Cadieux (Terrebonne) |
| Batten | Cameron (High Park) |
| Beer | Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands) |
| Bell | Cantlon |
| Benidickson | Cantin |
| Benson | Cardiff |