

*Old Age Security Act*

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I would like to refute the two arguments that the hon. parliamentary secretary has just raised since at no time—

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. We have tried to establish the practice that members do not speak more than once on a point of order. However, I must say that some of the arguments advanced by the hon. member for Lotbinière have given the Chair some concern. If no other hon. member wishes to speak on the point of order, I will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) and at the start of tomorrow's proceedings deal with the question of the admissibility of the proposed amendment. If this is agreeable, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe.

• (2150)

[Translation]

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I had some hesitation in taking part in this debate for the same reasons that have been expressed with eloquence and competence by my colleague, the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), because it was not my intention to follow the example set by the members of the Social Credit Party and unduly postpone the payment of pensions which must be granted to older citizens.

But I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that when I heard the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) talk about the development of the endocrine functions, I thought the time had come to say that in parliament all Quebecers do not sing the same tune.

When I heard the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) express concern about what the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe was doing, seek his assistance and his support, I must admit that I was flattered. I was flattered by this remark which was expressed many times by the hon. member for Lotbinière and the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) as well as by some other hon. members.

I thank them for their solicitude. As for their concern, I would say to them that this is only the beginning, and that, as the weeks go by, as the next election campaign gets nearer, my Social Credit friends will have excellent reasons for being more and more concerned; concerned about what will happen in the province of Quebec when the provincial government decides to go to the people.

**An hon. Member:** It will be of great concern to Saint-Hyacinthe.

**Mr. Wagner:** Mr. Speaker, I fail to see why that should concern my friends opposite, since I have not yet spoken about the present government. I have been speaking only of those who once claimed to hold the balance of power and who realized after the election that they held neither balance nor power.

Mr. Speaker, I can but smile at what I see here this evening, because we still have ringing in our ears the speeches that Social Credit members delivered to us yes—

[Mr. Reid.]

terday, the day before and during the last few weeks, while the official opposition was expressive what Canadians are thinking, in the form of non-confidence motions, while we were letting all members know that we had had enough of an impotent government that deserves to be thrown out.

**Mr. Fortin:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Wagner:** Mr. Speaker, we listened to what the hon. member for Lotbinière was saying about the Polymer Corporation, and to his frequent jibes at the official opposition; the member for Lotbinière, Mr. Speaker, called us—

**Mr. Fortin:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as a member I think I have a question of privilege since I have been given, like my colleagues, a unequivocal mandate to represent my fellow citizens in the House of Commons, whether they live in Quebec or elsewhere. The Social Credit Party of Canada is not bound to defeat the government but to get further benefits for senior citizens.

**Mr. Wagner:** Mr. Speaker, I would not wish to offend the hon. member for Lotbinière. I would not like to hurt his feelings if I remind him that, for several hours and several days, through a useless exercise in "proceduritis", the Social Credit Party of Canada is delaying the payment of money due to senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we are snowed under a series of motions, amendments and procedural arguments of all kinds—

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege on an extremely serious matter.

The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe has just charged the Social Credit party of Canada of "petty proceduritis", but at least we do rise and make proposals in the House. At any rate, I suggest that according to our rules, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe has no right to comment on rulings made by the Speaker, nor on the quality or the introduction of motions. The standing rule also provides that we do not have the right to determine or reflect on a member's behaviour with respect to a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe, instead of wasting the time of the House as he is doing now, instead of accusing others of doing nothing, should rise in his place and say courageously, on behalf of the people of Saint-Hyacinthe, that he is in favour of old age security pension at age 60 and then, he will be doing the same as we are, that is he will have made a positive contribution toward improving the conditions of older people.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that my privileges and the privileges of my colleagues, not only on this side of the House but on the other side also, have been infringed upon because we had to put up Monday with a ridiculous motion concerning a past sale, a motion introduced by the Progressive Conservative party to delay the business of