

and a responsibility to move this Bill forward for further conscientious debate. As some previous speakers have indicated, it will not be easy; it is a difficult, complex task. We are honoured to have had the Hon. Member for York-Scarborough leading this discussion. As I understand it, he is the first actuary ever elected to the House of Commons. It is fitting that he was the one who initiated the particular Bill.

As complex as it might be, I heartily endorse the initiative to get on with it so that the people of Canada will share the facts about the health of the various plans and share in the solutions where there may be shortfalls. Above all, it speaks to the accountability which Canadians expect from the Government. The Government has to be as accountable and as responsible as possible in the running of its fiscal affairs. In the long run, that not only means looking after the contribution of the stewards to these plans but hopefully eliminating any liability which might befall the taxpayers of the country if they were not properly looked after.

In closing, I applaud the Hon. Member and look forward to further contributions to this vital piece of legislation.

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the House about the position taken by the Government following the tabling for first reading of Bill C-255 by the Hon. Member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McCrossan) on December 2. This private Bill would require the Minister of Finance to table in Parliament triennial actuarial valuations of pension plans established under the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act, the Judges Act, the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act, the Public Service Superannuation Act, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act and the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act.

Moreover, the Bill would require an actuarial valuation of the Canada Pension Plan every three years instead of every five years as is now the case.

It would also require a detailed estimate of benefits payable under the Old Age Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Government views as valid the concept of more periodic actuarial valuations of all public pension plans. Indeed, this corresponds to recommendations already made by the Auditor General, and as mentioned earlier, by the Special Parliamentary Committee on Pension Reform.

The tabling of such reports will allow Parliament and the general public to have a better overview of the long term liabilities of the Government related to public pension plans under its jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, such standards would also be consistent with the standards set by the Government for private pension plans. The Government therefore agrees to refer this Bill to a parliamentary committee for further study, and having said so, Mr. Speaker, I shall ask for a vote.

Adjournment Debate

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order. The question? Very well.

[English]

Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Mr. McCrossan, seconded by Mr. Brisco, moves that Bill C-255, an Act to impose reporting requirements with respect to public pension plans and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Accordingly the Bill stands referred to a legislative committee. I think all Hon. Members would agree to calling it six o'clock.

• (1750)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 46 deemed to have been moved.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS—ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, on December 3 I rose in the House to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) about the Government's plans concerning the issue of abuse of the elderly. I mentioned at that time that I had attended a symposium in October which was set up as a special task force in the City of North York by Mayor Lastman to look into this vital problem. It has been operating for about a year under the chairmanship of Doctor Jerry Cooper and is co-ordinated by his wife Eleanor.

As you well know Canada's population is changing. As one of the speakers a little earlier in the day mentioned, at one point in time Canada had the youngest average population in the world. Now, within a decade or two, according to forecasts, we will have one of the higher average ages of population in the world.

It is very important that men and women get involved in looking at the abuse of the elderly. I know Mayor Lastman, who I have mentioned, originally had the foresight to set up a similar task force years ago on child abuse, when not many people thought there was a problem in this area. Thanks to that initiative it was looked into. There were indeed many