

The third point I wish to make relates to disability pensions. From my experience in my constituency and in other parts of the country it appears that an individual must be about seven-eighths dead before he can qualify for a disability pension.

An hon. member: No, eight-eighths dead.

Mr. Nesdoly: Someone suggests eight-eighths dead, and that is pretty bad. A disability pension should be exactly what it says. If a person is disabled and cannot carry out his regular job, he should be entitled to a pension. I know of one chap who was awarded a disability pension but some bureaucrat here in Ottawa or somewhere decided to appeal the award because he thought the man did not deserve it. The case was set for hearing on August 19 of this year, but I received a letter from this fellow the other day in which he said there has still been no hearing and he does not know when it will come about. I think this whole mess—perhaps it is administrative—should be straightened out.

The fourth and final suggestion I want to make to the minister is that many private pension plans, including the one for parliamentarians, should be scrapped. We should devise a national pension plan, integrating all these plans under one heading. In this way we could provide for retirement at age 55, 57 or what-have-you.

When I was elected a member of this House I had 20 years' service in the teaching profession in my province. I did not give a hoot about the parliamentary pension, but had I stayed in the teaching profession I could have retired at age 57 with 70 per cent of my pension based on my best six years' earnings. I am now losing the years I am here as a member. Maybe that will be only two or three years.

Canada Pension Plan (No. 2)

An hon. Member: It won't be long.

Mr. Nesdoly: An hon. member suggests it will not be long, but I will bet anything I will be here longer than him.

All pension plans should be totally portable. For 15 years I worked on a pension scheme for teachers in the province of Saskatchewan, during which time we had a very difficult time getting pensions made portable among Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and Ontario. We were never successful in making them portable east of Ontario. Rather than providing for a parliamentary pension, I should like to see my years of service as a member of parliament added to my 20 years' service as a teacher, in order that I might be able to retire at a decent age, in my case 57.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, in view of the hour perhaps I should not proceed to make a wind-up speech in respect of Bill C-224 but should deal with this matter in committee when the bill has been referred. I would therefore ask you to put the question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.