

*Canada Pension Plan*

be taking the same attitude toward our senior citizens, to those who are retired, and they should get the full benefit of the increase in productivity and the general increase in wages and earnings and all the other things that go to improve our standard of living.

I see that it is almost six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, and I am not going to take my full 40 minutes; that would mean rising to speak for only a few minutes after eight o'clock tonight. I hope I have made the point that we welcome this legislation. We regret that it has taken so long to even get this far. We hope that once it gets to the committee there will be abundant opportunity to examine and study it. We think that the reports of the actuaries will have to be studied in full and all these 125 clauses will have to be examined and questioned. I hope, also, that the sittings of the committee will do a good public relations job for this legislation. As a matter of fact, I hope there is something to the rumour that the house may recess for a period while that committee is sitting and dealing with this bill, so that it can be the main thing that is happening in parliament. As I say, I hope that if the rest of the business of the house is more or less completed, the house will not be prorogued but that instead there will be a recess so that the committee can deal with the bill and come back to the house with it, in order that we may get it through before the end of this session.

There is just one comment I wanted to make on an unrelated matter, but it is something to which the minister referred. I suppose we non-lawyers, every time we get into a legal matter, point out that we are not lawyers. I do not know whether that strengthens our case or weakens it.

**Mr. Monteith:** Even the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill).

**Mr. Knowles:** However, Mr. Speaker, I really am puzzled about the provision in the bill that virtually says the act cannot be amended in certain respects in the future unless such amendment is assented to by two thirds of the included provinces representing two thirds of the population of those provinces. Mr. Speaker, this is not the constitution of Canada; this is just an act, a statute passed in this 1964 session of parliament. Nothing could prevent the next session of parliament from amending this statute. Nothing could prevent any future parliament from amending this statute. This is the kind of language that I would think a law student who had not got very far would write into a bill. As a statement of intention on the part of the government, perhaps I can understand

it; but it seems to me that in legal terms it does not stand up at all. If this government is giving a commitment to the provinces that it will not do anything like that, that is something for the government to do by way of commitment to the provinces and to stand or fall on it; but to ask parliament to tie itself in an annual statute to something that is constitutional in character is, I suggest, bordering on the ridiculous. However, Mr. Speaker, rather than rising at eight o'clock in order to conclude my remarks, I would say in conclusion now that we welcome the bill; we are pleased with the things in it that are good, but we hope that the weaknesses we have pointed out will be improved before the bill is finally passed at this session.

#### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTION TO BE  
DEBATED UNDER ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It is my duty pursuant to provisional standing order 39A to inform the house that the question to be raised at ten o'clock this evening is as follows: The hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher); the Senate, inquiry as to reform measures proposed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

#### PENSIONS

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF  
CONTRIBUTORY PROGRAM

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Miss LaMarsh for the second reading of Bill No. C-136, to establish a comprehensive program of old age pensions and supplementary benefits in Canada payable to and in respect of contributors.

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of my party I should like to say a few words about Bill C-136 now before us.

As has been stated by a number of members of this house about both Bills C-136 and C-75, the predecessor of this bill, it is a very long and complex bill which requires a great deal of study and explanation before it is completely understood by all members of this house. I should like to say at the outset that I do not intend to get caught in the trap in which the hon. member for Perth (Mr.