

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

items of business will be called in government time, and I am not trying to usurp that right of the government. But the government also has an obligation to pay some attention to its promises. On the second day of this session the Prime Minister said in the house, in answer to a question of mine, that we would proceed with the Canada pension plan in the early days of this session. That was back in February. Prior to Easter, in response to further questions, he gave the assurance that we would deal with this matter before Easter; in fact, that we would get it to the special committee to be established for it. Then we were told later that this would be done before the summer recess. I suppose the excuse is that we did not have a summer recess.

So it has gone right throughout the months of this session; we keep being told that we are going to get this legislation soon. At last it is on the order paper in the form of the resolution that precedes the latest version of the Canada pension plan. But I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the government is failing in its duty and is missing a golden opportunity by not calling this item tomorrow or Monday, or Tuesday at the latest. Let me repeat that once it is called it has to be dealt with within one day, so no time is lost. The government says that interim supply has top priority. I recognize the priority of interim supply, but I would point out what all of us who have been around here for any time are aware of, namely that the present interim supply debate is not a debate that is going to take place for a certain number of days; it is a debate that is going to take place until a certain date—probably about November 5, and on that date there may be a blow-up of some kind and it will be all over. We all know what is involved here. Just as soon as we get close to the brink, or just as soon as civil service salaries are in danger of not being paid, this debate will end. Therefore any day taken out of the present interim supply debate will not postpone the passing of interim supply; as a matter of fact it will save a day's debate on interim supply, and we will have had the debate on the resolution stage of the Canada pension plan and thus get the bill.

I submit further, Mr. Speaker, that if the government would have this one day's debate, which is the limit the rules allow, on the resolution preceding the Canada pension plan bill, we would then have the bill before us and this would be taken by all members of the house and all parties as a sign of good faith that the government intends to go ahead with this legislation. I also think it would

have an effect on the temper of this house; I believe it would help the house to realize there is a firm intention to proceed during the next few weeks of this session with important and significant legislation.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I do not like the way we have been put off with respect to this matter week after week, month after month, for the past 18 months or so; and I do not think it is enough for the Prime Minister to say that another day or two will not make any difference. I say that it would make a difference if we were to take a day now on this resolution; otherwise such a day would just be lost in the interim supply debate. We should use that day to get the resolution stage over and get the bill introduced and given first reading. Then we will have the bill before us, it will be printed, it will be there for us all to see and for the country to see; and it will in fact be a sign of good faith that the government intends to proceed with this kind of important legislation, rather than with something else that might just take time and drag things out. If the government would agree to this course being followed we could thus make this session the significant and worth-while one that I believe we would yet like it to be, rather than just the longest session in history.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the announcement has already been made tonight that we are going to have interim supply tomorrow and Monday, I put to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. McIlraith), who I take it is the minister who is going to answer me, this simple question: Will the government not reconsider my proposal and call the resolution preceding the Canada pension plan tomorrow or Monday, or not later than Tuesday, so we may take this step forward with respect to this important piece of legislation?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the government is just as anxious to bring forward the Canada pension plan as is the hon. member. I must tell him that the government, as it sees its responsibility, considers that the first priority must be given to interim supply. I think that is elementary. That being the case interim supply has been indicated as the business for tomorrow and I think we will have to proceed in that way.

The next item of priority is, of course, the Canada pension plan resolution. The hon. member developed the argument, or really asserted the proposition, that the debate on interim supply would end at a certain date