

Government Orders

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. parliamentary secretary may want to hear what the other person has and then she could answer. The hon. member for Winnipeg North.

Mr. Pagtakhan: Madam Speaker, I would just like to re-echo the sentiment of my House leader, the member for Cape Breton. As a procedure, of course, it is our privilege that we present this motion at report stage.

Again, to echo the sentiment of the NDP at that legislative committee, it was a fact that we were given a timetable. It was almost humanly impossible to consider all these amendments and allow for reasonable and rational debate on the many amendments that we proposed.

What we indicated is a theme on the concerns indicating that we have given notice to this government that we would propose amendments at the report stage.

I would like to thank my colleague from Delta for his support of this amendment as well as other members who spoke earlier, including the parliamentary secretary. I have noted the quandary of my colleague from Delta. I was asking myself, before I stood, why the quandary? Perhaps it is because he belongs to the government side. If that were so, I think today I should congratulate him for the courage to indicate in a very non-partisan fashion a commitment to an amendment that in fact is votable as has been proposed. Truly, I must not claim the full credit. I only allowed the process to bring the thought of the National Council of Welfare to this Chamber.

On that note, I would really beseech the parliamentary secretary to reconsider and ask her government to support this motion.

Mrs. Sparrow: Madam Speaker, I do share these concerns with respect to divorces and splitting of benefits. I want to thank my colleague from Delta for expressing his concerns. This, of course, is not the first time the hon. member has brought forth the concerns of his constituents. Indeed, this is something that will be put on the agenda at the next minister's meeting with his counterparts in the provinces.

However, what we are talking about here today is the division of powers, the powers between the provinces and the federal government. I guess we are already on notice of appeals and if we have to face reality, a lot of this has to do with provincial authority as well.

I will take the member's concerns and, indeed, these amendments that he has put forward, as well as those of the member for Broadview—Greenwood about communicating the criteria to the public right across Canada on the system and the amendments that are made to the Canada Pension Plan.

The problem as the member for Delta knows is that we have a bill before us today that is going to increase the benefits to dependent youngsters of disabled and deceased contributors and that, of course, we want to go through and be applicable January 1, 1992.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare met with his counterparts some months ago and came to an agreement in principle. Therefore, we have this agreement in principle on the amendments. They are in Bill C-39 at the present time.

Therefore, I can certainly give you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues my guarantee and promise that I will take these concerns forward to ensure that the minister in his discussions next year with the provinces brings forth the credit splitting and the benefits with regard to marriages, be they common law and/or traditional that break up.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The first question is on Motion No. 4A. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Madam Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

Madam Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.