

*Old Age Security Act*

in fact discriminate against a certain class of individuals. Surely we do not want to do that as parliamentarians. Surely we do not want to inflict further difficulties on individuals who are facing difficult economic times at present.

We could advocate that in this Bill there ought to be a homemaker's pension or a whole host of reforms. However, the Government has refused to do that; perhaps we will have an opportunity to debate them at another time. This piece of legislation is earmarked to be implemented in September, 1985. If that is the Government's wish, with its mandate it is virtually impossible for us to change it. However, I do not see any great need for the majority on the opposite side and the book-ends on this side to say that Members of Parliament are dragging their feet or slowing down the process of Parliament. We are attempting to debate this piece of legislation in an intelligent way. We are attempting to have the Government recognize that, notwithstanding the good parts of this legislation, many parts of it ought to be changed to include the amendments we are suggesting.

● (1540)

Finally, I will conclude by saying that I am happy the Government has brought this Bill forward, although I do not agree with it entirely. Second, I am happy that it is accepting the recommendations of a parliamentary task force which worked for a considerable period of time to put this legislation on the floor of the House of Commons.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Maily:** Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make a comment on the Hon. Member's speech. I also wanted to reassure him by saying that when I suggested that this legislation should be referred to committee, it was not because I was not listening to his speech, but rather because I was actually listening. He was telling me that in his view perhaps the Bill was not perfect, that it could be improved upon. I know the Hon. Member sits on the Committee for Regional Development and I know that he is well acquainted with his subjects. I was therefore simply suggesting that there was the place where we could improve, so he said, on this legislation he is so concerned with. Therefore, referring the Bill to committee is not brushing the matter under the carpet, it is simply referring it to another forum where detailed examination may take place.

[*English*]

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her comments. I am aware and fully appreciate the process with which Parliament has to deal. However, I would hope that Members on all sides, of all Parties, whether it be the independent Member or Members who are not in this House, would fully avail themselves of the opportunity to debate this legislation now on the floor of the House of Commons. We could elicit suggestions here to improve the Bill. I am sure we could improve upon it even more so in committee. Members of Parliament would like to have this opportunity. Since the legislation is not earmarked for implementation until Septem-

ber, 1985, I cannot understand the rationale for having it referred to committee. Surely the Hon. Member is not suggesting that Members of Parliament are only able to make suggestions to improve legislations in committee and not on the floor of the House of Commons. This is the Chamber where suggestions for improving legislation ought to come forward. If the Hon. Member wishes to receive suggestions, I can itemize a number of them for her at the present time.

**Mr. Jepson:** Mr. Speaker, having heard the Hon. Member's comments in his very sanctimonious speech, feeling as he does the obligation to bring before the people his criticisms on the Bill, I want to say that the Government and the Minister have been very honest in bringing forward this Bill. They have stated that there are some shortcomings in that there are still people with legitimate needs who will not have those needs met. They told the people that very clearly when they brought this Bill forward.

This delaying tactic betrays the fact that there have to be ulterior motives in delaying this Bill from being brought to a fruitful conclusion. It merely delays the opportunity of the Government to bring forward other Bills that we are prepared and ready to bring before the House so that other legitimate needs of Canadians can be met. It is nice to hear his pious platitudes, but the truth is in the pudding. We have declared the shortcomings. We say we would like to do more. At the same time, we are not going to display the irresponsibility and poor stewardship of the previous administration and spend first and look for the money after.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, it is always interesting and perhaps a little bit refreshing to receive lectures from new Members of Parliament on what we should do or should not do, or indeed on the substance of what a speech is or is intended to be. I am always happy when this Hon. Member stands in his place and, not in a sanctimonious way but in a patronizing type of way, suggests what other Members of Parliament ought to do.

Let me say something to the Hon. Member for his own edification and information. He made a very telling statement to the effect that he does not want to spend money without knowing the intent of it. I would ask him about the borrowing Bill. The Government is asking the Opposition in this Parliament to approve expenditures which we do not know anything about. It wants us to approve a sum of money for next year for Government expenditures. That was just a small contradiction by the new Member. I thought I would bring that to his attention so that he would read the "blues". He may wish to make changes. Indeed, he may really wish to show some courage and stand in his place on the next sitting day to correct the record on his irresponsible comment.

**Mr. Hockin:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for London East (Mr. Jepson) needs no help from the Member for London West, but I am struck by the comments just made by the Hon. Member from the Liberal Party. When we as the Government are asked for borrowing authority, we asked for much less of a reserve than the Liberal Government asked for last year. It