

Age of Retirement

Mr. Saltsman: Of course some men are old at 35, and some people are as young as the hon. lady at 27. One of the difficulties with an argument of this type is that if you talk about society generally, making over-all rules, you are bound to find examples of injustice in a particular case.

Somebody might say that if we had forced Einstein to retire at 65 or Madam Curie at 60, it would have been a terrible thing. Even if they had been forced to retire, their brains would not have retired. They would have kept on working. Therefore it is not much of an argument.

There is a great deal more I should like to say, but time is running out. I say to the hon. member for Edmonton West, through you, Mr. Speaker, that the motion is important and worthy. It should go to committee and it should get an opinion from the House. Therefore, I will resume my seat. I sincerely hope it will not be talked out but will find its way to the committee.

[Translation]

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) for having finally understood that for a long—may I call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: It is not six o'clock yet.

Mr. Allard: There are only a few minutes left. I would like to congratulate the hon. member and others for having finally realized that for a long time we have been asking for such legislation to lower the pension eligibility age to 60. We do not want to make this compulsory, but we would like the worker who wishes to retire after many years of work to be able to do so. Of course, since these people have started working hard when they were 12 or 15, like the member of the New Democratic Party said earlier, when they reach 60 they have contributed at least 40 years of hard work to society, earning barely sufficient wages and trying to raise their families in spite of their hardships. Therefore, it would be quite natural for those people to take it easy finally and to be able to retire at 60.

The hon. member for Waterloo-Cambridge (Mr. Saltsman) said that women should be able to retire at 60, and I agree, but why should we discriminate? Men have the same needs as women and they should also be eligible for retirement at 60.

As I said earlier, for many years, we of the Social Credit Party have been asking that the pension eligibility age be lowered to 60 and that the amount of pensions be substantially increased. After a hard struggle, we have finally obtained that the basic old age pension be increased to \$150 or \$149, I believe. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion we can never do too much for those people who have worked hard for many years, and I very humbly submit that the pension eligibility age should be lowered to 60 on an optional basis, that is the individual concerned should be able to decide. If he wants or needs to keep on working, he should be able to do so. Sometimes it may

[Mrs. Pigott.]

not be through love of work but because he has obligations. There are many people of 60 who still have children in school and they cannot afford to retire. This is why it should be up to the worker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The private members' hour has now expired.

[English]

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I find this a little difficult, and I suppose there is this difficulty any time one has something to which hon. members would like to contribute and on which we would like a general disposition. However, private members' hour lost 15 minutes on what I considered a rather sterile debate on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has to apply the rule. One hour is allocated for private members' business and it has now expired.

● (1802)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

PERFORMING ARTS—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY ON FEATURE FILMS—PROTECTION OF CANADIAN INTERESTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I questioned the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) with respect to when we might expect a new film policy which would deal effectively with the difficulties which have been encountered for many years in terms of ensuring an adequate distribution system for Canadian films as well as a reasonable return for Canadian producers. I must say the minister's answer to my question the other day was not an encouraging one.

It was 12 years ago, on April 5, that we read in the Speech from the Throne:

You will be asked to consider . . . a measure to help the development of a feature film industry in Canada.

Since that time, with the exception of the formation of the Canadian Feature Film Production Corporation, which took place in 1967-68, there has been no reason to be over-confident with regard to the amount of support that the Canadian government has given to the development of this new industry. I want to be fair and recognize that the establishment of the Feature Film Development Corporation was a major initiative and that, without it, I doubt whether we would have seen the kind of film production which has taken place—I have in mind particularly the period immediately after its formation. But as