

Government Orders

I say to you, Sir, and to members opposite and to my colleagues that that is wrong. We ought to change it. I hope the parliamentary secretary will be true to her word. I have every reason to believe she will. I hope this matter will be brought to the attention of ministers of health across this country for subsequent change and amendment and to rectify the situation.

I make reference to these particular cases because I think it important that members of Parliament and those in the viewing audience realize that sometimes we deal with a lot of technical stuff. Sometimes we deal with miscellaneous statutes where you have different bills that are affected and affect other bills.

• (1610)

My colleague from the New Democratic Party was so right today when he stood in his place. He did not necessarily agree with me, but he was right in terms of pension reform. He was right. I do not think anyone doubts that. Surely there is an obligation on all of us not to just push through with a quick hand a statute like Bill C-35, which has 90 different federal statutes and ump-teen different amendments and various consequential amendments. It is very important for us when dealing with Bill C-39 to make substantive changes which affect the lives of Canadians.

A number of organizations have applauded the government in terms of the increases that will occur as a result of premiums both on the employer and employee sides in order to make the fund solvent. We on this side hope that these changes, which were made to rectify an error, and were done certainly with good faith on our part and hopefully on the part of the government, will be consummated again on the passage of third reading of this bill.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping you will allow my colleague, the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood, to continue on in the debate in the time that remains. However, I do want to say through you to the parliamentary secretary, who said some very kind words earlier this day, that she will be true to her undertaking and the suggestions we have made she will bring them to the attention again of the minister and to the ministers of health to see whether some political will can be gathered across this country to make those kinds of substantive changes which we believe to be important both in terms of assisting the recipients of this particular

piece of legislation, and also be able to facilitate the implementation of changes that we are recommending.

I would hope that the parliamentary secretary would share with me the letter that she will be forwarding to first ministers. I just want to see the body of the letter. I do not have to see the salutation of "My dearest colleague" or whatever it says, and I certainly do not want to see the signature with all the xs and os that will go to the various provincial ministers across the country. I hope the parliamentary secretary will be kind enough to send members on this side of the House a copy of that letter.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I will take the remaining moments from my colleague's time. As he said earlier, we salute the government for putting this bill on the floor of the House and putting the fiscal framework of the Canada Pension Plan back in order. It is something that the senior citizens of this country would appreciate. I know that in my own riding, 22,000 seniors count on this national plan to be properly managed. When they hear that we are putting the time and effort into making sure that the solvency of this fund will always be maintained, I am sure this will be good news to those constituents, not only in my riding but right across the country.

I want to talk about another aspect of this particular piece of legislation. It has to do with pensions for the disabled. I have talked about this—I guess it was second reading and I brought it up earlier today.

I am going to repeat myself because when you are a new MP there are days when you can stand in this House and feel good about what you are doing.

There are other days when you wonder what you are doing here: "What a waste of time. I think I could get a lot more done if I were not an MP".

At this moment with the case that I hold in my hands I feel that I am spinning my wheels. It is a case that I personally have been working on since August 8. It is a case that was brought to my attention by one of my constituents. It involves a man in my riding who volunteered his services to a fellow neighbour in rebuilding a roof on his home. My friend, Mr. Baxevanis, is a craftsman and he was on the roof of this home. He fell and broke his hip, his legs and his arms. He was lucky. I think the only thing he did not break was his neck. He had over 30 different major operations and has not been able to work for just under three years.