

*Canadian Arsenals Limited*

● (1510)

*[English]*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is Friday afternoon. I was paying attention to the Hon. Member's speech and he never mentioned who was or was not in the House. He has been here for close to two years now and I know he realizes that Hon. Members do not mention who is or who is not in the Chamber. We will just leave it at that.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, all Members are here. The ones who have not spoken yet are too busy doing constituency work. It is not because they are not here. I really resent the Hon. Member saying that her colleagues are not here. It is just not fair to them and the record should show that she is being unfair towards her colleagues by doing what she just did. Not that I would mention it myself, but now that she has brought it up I cannot really disagree with her. I will leave it at that.

*[Translation]*

**Mrs. Maily:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Gatineau.

**Mrs. Maily:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member has just said that this Bill was most important. I would therefore particularly like to hear his comments on that, rather than having him play his childish little games.

**Mr. Boudria:** I am not playing games, you are.

*[English]*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I know the Hon. Member will now get back to the motion.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I was going to do before I was so rudely interrupted. I am glad to hear a contribution from the Hon. Member in this debate, albeit a brief contribution.

**Mrs. Maily:** I spoke on it and you know it. We all spoke on it.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to a profile of the employees of Canadian Arsenals. I know the Hon. Member is listening very attentively, as she usually does. The average age of employees of Canadian Arsenals is 33.87 years. The reason I bring this to your attention at this time is that a number of these employees are quite young and at the same time they have a fair level of seniority in the company. That means they have contributed significantly to the pension process, yet they are still at an age at which they will be gravely damaged by what the Government is proposing and by what the Government has refused. That is to say, it has refused the amendments I proposed earlier. The delay being proposed here will surely give time to the Government and everyone else to reflect upon what they want to do and hopefully propose something better for the employees.

Let me give you a few examples of just what damage we are talking about regarding loss of benefits for the employees. I know that the Vice-President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada has raised this issue with the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret). They met on Wednesday, April 16. There were two meetings, one early in the morning and one a little later in the day. The Minister made a solemn promise. You will recognize and recall, as do I, that a Tory promise is a pretty important thing. That Tory Minister promised he would get back to the Vice-President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada by yesterday at two o'clock. I know this is going to be hard to believe but that Tory cabinet Minister did not respond.

**Mr. Bradley:** It is in the mail.

**Mr. Boudria:** No, Mr. Speaker. He broke his promise, as unbelievable as that may sound. The Tories have not broken a promise today, of course, but they have practically every other day since they came into office.

This afternoon the Vice-President of the Public Service Alliance did get a call from the assistant to the Minister who said he was sorry that he did not call yesterday but he decided that he did not want to do anything more for the employees. That is what just happened a few moments ago, just behind the Chamber here. That is a very sad case. I know the Parliamentary Secretary, who is heckling, will take the opportunity to make a profound speech—

**Mr. Bradley:** Not heckling, just clarifying.

**Mr. Boudria:** — a little later this afternoon.

An employee aged 29 with 12 years of service with Canadian Arsenals will be losing \$17,213.07 a year by the time he or she is pensioned. That is the difference between the two pension plans. The Parliamentary Secretary said earlier today that the SNC pension is comparable to other similar industries. That is a very interesting statement because how many other similar industries are there in Canada? One. Just one.

**Mr. Bradley:** Five.

**Mr. Boudria:** There is only one similar industry in Canada and it is known as IVI. Do you know who owns IVI? SNC, the same people buying this company. So what kind of sense does it make to make those kinds of comparisons? I submit that it is probably true that the pension plans are comparable. It is true that SNC is a good employer. That is not the point. It is not SNC that is a bad employer, it is the Government of Canada. It is this Tory Government which is a bad employer by letting down the people who work for it. That is what is wrong.

All the Tory Members in this House, all 211 of them, those who are here right now, every one of them, I am sure, deep down in their hearts agrees with me. If only their Whip or House Leader, or whoever is in charge, and sometimes we wonder if there is anyone in charge, would let them speak their mind in this House on behalf of their constituents. I am sure the Hon. Member who represents that riding would want to