

of the legislative priorities of the government. This is necessary if any member of the House, or at least of an opposition party, is to have a clear idea of the legislative objectives of the government which would enable a member to reach a considered opinion on whether to support the government on the motion that is now before the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Point no. 4; whether or not the Prime Minister gives the information I have requested about employment policies, income tax policies or legislative priorities, we wish to see this debate adjourned after the other party leaders have had their say, at least until first thing in the morning. After all, we should have had this speech and we should have had some urgent legislation in December. We should have had this debate in December.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: The government has had ample time to prepare. I am sure the bill on old age pensions must be ready. It must be ready for introduction today so that we could discuss it tomorrow. I should like to see the House start consideration of the government's legislation on old age pensions tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I do not want to see the old people kept waiting a day longer than necessary. It may be the legislation will be so unsatisfactory that nobody can support it. Yet, surely it is ready and surely the government could introduce it today. We would consent to reverting to introduction of bills and waiving any notice required for the introduction of this bill in order that it may be introduced, say, a few minutes before six o'clock. Also, we would waive any notice required for second reading tomorrow. After all, we read in the Speech from the Throne that legislation will be introduced to improve the economic condition of old age pensioners and that this will be an immediate step.

• (1550)

An hon. Member: Where is the bill?

An hon. Member: Let us get at it.

Mr. Stanfield: Surely, it is ready now. We have no desire whatever to obstruct the government while it is here and I hope the government does not intend, while it is there, to obstruct parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: The government ought to start producing important legislation right away. I want tomorrow to discontinue this debate for one purpose, namely, to get on with the consideration of legislation for providing aid to the old age pensioners. Tomorrow, at the appropriate time, the government could introduce some other legislation that it must have ready. Surely, it is reasonable to ask the government to introduce the legislation alluded to today. The bill must be ready because, as I say, the government says it will introduce that legislation as an

The Address—Mr. Stanfield

immediate step. I do not see why the government and all parties in the House would not welcome this initiative. Then, we could take whatever length of time is necessary tomorrow and on subsequent days to get this bill under way. Of course, whether it is one that is worth supporting or whether the details will need to be changed we will find out. Afterwards, after the government has introduced some other legislation, we could come back in a reasonable short time to this debate and continue it.

An hon. Member: Or the cancellation of this debate.

Mr. Stanfield: We will not cancel this debate, and I do not think my friends opposite will. They are not willing to cancel this debate. They are looking forward to a vote of confidence and hope to obtain it. I am bringing forward some proposals that will provide some long delayed aid to our older people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: We want to see other legislation introduced which, according to the Speech from the Throne, is ready. The Speech from the Throne contains this statement:

... legislation will be introduced to clarify certain aspects of the Unemployment Insurance plan and to prevent abuses that have not been overcome by the administrative action already taken.

That is described as an immediate step. Clearly, that legislation must be ready and the government could introduce a bill relating to that matter tomorrow. I am not saying it needs to be discussed right away. However, the bill I want to see introduced right away relates to old age pensions. Surely, a bill relating to unemployment insurance is as important to my friends in the NDP as it is to me; surely, those hon. members would want to see such legislation before they make up their minds as to what they think about this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: The government has put forward its proposals. Since the Prime Minister stated clearly and concretely what he proposes to do about unemployment and taxation and since he gave us half a dozen legislative priorities and objectives I say, why not introduce a bill today. The bill relating to old age pensions must be ready. It could be introduced so that we could proceed with second reading tomorrow and, as well, promptly introduce other legislation such as that relating to unemployment insurance. In any event, the government has said that it will introduce such legislation immediately. I think that the government's actions will give us a clearer idea of how much there is behind the façade of the Speech from the Throne.

The hon. member for York South may not wish to support our amendment; but he will not be required to take that decision until such time as he has been able to form his own judgment as to the quality and character of the government's program regarding employment, other legislation and the degree to which it satisfies the House in meeting the genuine needs of the country.

I wish to propose an amendment to the motion before the House, because the evidence makes it even more clear