

*Canada Pension Plan*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton has the floor. I wish he would get to his point of order rather soon.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** The critics to whom the hon. member refers are available. I commend to the government that it consider going ahead with metric conversion because that is something which has occupied its attention very much. We are ready for that.

In conclusion, let me say this: it is important that we do not proceed with Bill C-49 right now because of the importance of the legislation. Second, the minister is not here. Third, there has not been the normal consultation. Fourth, unfortunately for us, certainly not for the institution of parliament, the legislative program has proceeded much too quickly and, indeed, beyond what was the understanding with respect to that legislative program.

There may be other members who will wish to speak to this point of order which I have tried to put as succinctly as I can. I have mentioned the alternative pieces of legislation that the government might deal with tonight if it is ready.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** I suggest to the hon. member that that was not a point of order but a good speech.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, I hope I can do as well as the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) in terms of his point of order.

**An hon. Member:** Speak to the bill.

**Mr. Alexander:** I can speak to the bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Will the hon. member please address the Chair?

**Mr. Alexander:** I was speaking through you, Sir. If you do not know what the bill is all about, Mr. Speaker, it is amendments to the Canada Pension Plan involving the splitting provisions and dropout provisions for the benefit of spouses. In other words, what the bill is attempting to do, for the benefit of the Liberal backbencher who does not know what it is all about, is to give some recognition to the role of women in the home. However, that is not what I want to get into right now.

What I want to get into is the fact that the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) have both put their fingers on the point that concerns me. I was sitting on the other side of the House speaking with one of my Liberal friends, and I do have a few on the other side, determining what we were going to do tonight as a result of a number of motions on Bill C-27. He was trying to tell me there were 13 or 15. I tried to point out to him there were 14 amendments which would call for a vote on each one.

All of a sudden it dawned on me I was hearing a number, something like C-49. I immediately thought that was a responsibility which was mine. I thought that could not be, because

there had been no discussion between the House leaders, which is the usual way that bills come before this House in terms of report stage and/or third reading.

**Mr. Goyer:** Are you for or against the bill?

**Mr. Alexander:** I hear the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) intervening, but I cannot hear him. I wonder if he would speak out a little louder.

**Mr. Goyer:** Are you for or against the bill?

**Mr. Alexander:** As I was saying, much to my surprise I had to run over here in order to determine what was going on. Then I listened with great interest to what my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre said. He is always on the ball when it comes to the legislative pussyfooting which we encounter as a result of the government's incompetence.

● (2140)

I am surprised that the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Goodale) should have said, "Oh well, it doesn't really matter—"

**Mr. Goodale:** I did not say that. I announced it this afternoon. It is apparent you are not ready.

**Mr. Alexander:** —we are all prepared and it was assumed that if we got rid of the Bretton Woods bill and another bill dealing with finance we would automatically move to Bill C-49." That is a lot of nonsense.

**An hon. Member:** Call the bill!

**Mr. Alexander:** Moving to Bill C-49 calls for the attention of the government House leader.

**Mr. Baldwin:** And the minister.

**Mr. Alexander:** And of the minister.

I have nothing to say against the parliamentary secretary. I think he knows his job. At any rate he gets paid enough for doing it. But I do not want to deal with the parliamentary secretary, and that is my right. I know the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) would like to introduce this bill himself, primarily because of his concern about the attitude of Ontario, and that is my province. During the committee stage, which the hon. member for York East (Mr. Collenette) was not at, the minister told the committee that it was important to look into the position of the Ontario government, because I know, Mr. Speaker—

**An hon. Member:** It is 9.45.

**Mr. Alexander:** Not quite. I have not finished. The problem of Ontario is one of extensive concern—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** I suggest to the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) that he is off on the wrong track. He should return to the subject of the point of order.