

people and asking them what they think about these things. We should be reflecting the thinking of the people. If a large majority of the people do not want legislation which denies senior citizens a reasonable living—and I am sure a large majority do not—the Government should not bring it in. That is not reflecting the thinking of the people. It is telling the people what is good for them. That is not my idea of democracy.

Also the Hon. Member for Quebec suggested changes. They have been in power for 40 years or so. Surely they have had lots of time to bring in other changes if they wanted to do so. The people are becoming tired of closure. It has happened twice in this one debate. We had one day and now we have a two-day closure on this one. Government Members are suggesting that because they call it a different name, that because they call it time allocation, it is not closure. They are stopping debate, and to me that is closure.

Indexing was brought in by a federal Government which was representative of all Canadians. This Government is not. It should recognize that it has very little representation in some Provinces and none in others. It should be going out of its way to find out what people think, the people who are not represented on that side of the House. It should not be cutting off debate on this side where the people have sent representatives to speak for them. We are speaking for them. Indexing was brought in so that senior citizens could have a reasonable standard of living. If we cut off indexing, we will affect the standard of living of a great number of senior citizens. I tell the Government that if it cuts off indexing senior citizens will not have a reasonable standard of living.

• (1610)

Senior citizens have already gone through their restraint period. They went through the hungry thirties when they had to scrape for everything they could get. Many of them went hungry in the hungry thirties, but they continued to work to build an economy that would surely recognize the virtues of the pioneers. But now they are being betrayed. They thought that at least when they got a pension they would be okay. Indexing was added by a national government so that when the price of food went up they could still have a reasonable standard of living. But now that is being denied them. A part of their pension is being cut off. The Government is telling them that they are getting too much.

How many Hon. Members opposite have had senior citizens come to them when an overpayment was made by mistake by a Department? The senior citizen gets a letter telling him or her to pay it back. But senior citizens do not have money to pay it back. The Government says, "We will take more from your pension each month and you will have to go without a little bit because the Department made a mistake. You have to pay for it." That has happened to me many times when pensioners in my riding get an overpayment. They think the Department knows what it is doing. They think the Government knows

what it is doing. Senior citizens spend their money on things that are needed. Their money is not spent on any extravagance. Their money is spent on necessities, and when a mistake is made by the Department, they, the pensioners, have to pay it back. Senior citizens have to cut back again next month. All they are asked to do is cut, cut, cut. Now this Government is asking them to cut more. This Government is also bringing in closure to stop us from even giving Parliament their plea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Before I recognize the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Tousignant), may I deal with the proceedings of the adjournment motion this evening?

### *Time Allocation*

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Deniger)—Air Transport—Alleged refusal of permission for Wardair to compete with Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Airlines; the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson)—Penitentiaries—Cancellation of university courses—(b) Request that decision be deferred—(c) Provision of free university tuition to inmates; and the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen)—Forestry—Inquiry respecting Government programs and policies.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER REPORT AND THIRD READING STAGES OF BILL C-131

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Miss Bégin:

That, in relation to Bill C-131, an Act to amend the Old Age Security Act (No. 2), one sitting day shall be allotted to the consideration of each of the report stage and the third reading stage of the Bill; and

That, fifteen minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on those days, any proceedings before the House shall be interrupted, if required, for the purpose of this Order and, in turn, every question then necessary in order to dispose of the stage of the Bill then under consideration shall be put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment.

[Translation]

**Mr. Henri Tousignant (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, to hear the Hon. Members opposite, you would think the