

Business of the House

I will not reiterate the details of that bill, since we are all familiar with them, having so recently examined them in this House. However, I would like to mention in passing the protection afforded to those who are incapacitated and cannot act on their own behalf.

In the past, such persons have lost several months of benefits or even total eligibility because they were unable to apply on time. The Minister of National Health and Welfare will now be able to treat an application for any CPP benefit as if it had been made at the time that the person became incapacitated. While this may not affect a large number of people, I believe that it is very important in terms of the basic intention and spirit of the Plan.

With regard to Bill C-280, notwithstanding what was discussed and approved in the House a few minutes ago, I still feel that the hon. member has put forward for our consideration a very valid proposal. There is no doubt that this would benefit some disabled contributors who do not now meet the eligibility requirements. However, I also believe that we must pause and assure ourselves that we are not making a fundamental change in the philosophy of the Plan with respect to relationship to earnings and the recency of those earnings.

Therefore, while I support this proposal in principle, I do believe that it needs further reflection. We must also recognize that federal and provincial legislators do not amend the CPP in haste. A change which affects funding, such as this one, would require the approval of two thirds of the provinces having two thirds of the Canadian population, as well as the approval of Parliament. I am very pleased that the Minister has undertaken to bring this proposal to the attention of the provinces and to put it on the agenda of the next federal-provincial meeting on the Canada Pension Plan, which should take place in the coming months.

In closing, I would like to thank the hon. member for Don Valley East for providing this opportunity to discuss the question of CPP disability benefits. This motion and the debate on it give us the opportunity to consider issues which are fundamental to the disability provisions of the Plan.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the parties and I believe you will find unanimous consent for the following motion:

That when the House undertakes third reading debate on Bill C-4, an act to revise and amend the law governing federal trust and loan companies and to provide for related and consequential matters, it shall be deemed that all bills, part of a financial institutions package, namely Bill C-19, an act respecting banks and banking; Bill C-28, an act respecting insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies; and Bill C-34, an act to revise and amend the law governing co-operative credit associations and to provide for related and consequential matters; be called jointly with Bill C-4 for third reading debate;

That Standing Order 11(2) be suspended for the duration of the debate at third reading;

That the debate be held concurrently on the subject matter covered in the four said bills;

That, immediately after Bill C-4 has been disposed of, the Speaker shall put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendments, all questions to dispose of Bill C-19, Bill C-28 and Bill C-34 at third reading in that order.

• (1800)

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among House leaders with regard to the contents of this motion. We find it in accordance with what we have agreed to.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, the NDP caucus has no problem with this motion.

We have been very co-operative in the study of these bills at second reading and at report stage and will continue to do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The House has heard the terms of the motion tabled by the hon. parliamentary secretary. Is there unanimous consent to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Cooper) agreed to.