

With regard to the suggestion by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) that speedy passage of these bills should not interfere with discussion of their subjects in the budget debate I am sure that will be understood. With regard to his other suggestion that we proceed first of all today to conclude the debate on second reading of the farm credit bill, we are prepared to agree to that, and if the few minutes still to be taken by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) do not provoke anyone else to speak we hope that the votes on the subamendment and the amendment can be taken forthwith.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, we have been asking for higher old age and veterans pensions for so long that we will certainly not oppose neither the first nor the second nor the third reading of the bill. We are willing, my colleagues and I, to have first and even second reading of the bill today.

I trust the minister will also take into account the fact that he is introducing two bills, on the eve of an election, which will allow an increase in pensions by the end of June. We are not against this, since for two years now, we have been asking the minister to grant those increases.

The fact of waiting to make retroactive payments from June to January will certainly be recognized as smacking of an election.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby rising on a point of order? I would hope there would not be a debate on this subject. We are on motions now and the minister has made a statement which has been responded to by representatives of the parties in opposition. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby is rising at this time. I suggest to him and to other hon. members that only one representative of each party is entitled to speak on the subject. I assume this is the way we ought to proceed at this time.

My understanding is that the suggestion has been made by the President of the Privy Council and other members that there should be agreement and it should be so ordered by the House that the House will waive notice of first reading requirements in respect of the bills relating to pensions and that there would be an understanding that the discussion on these bills would begin later this afternoon. This would be subject to two conditions: First, that there be a maximum of 30 minutes assigned for the conclusion of the debate on Bill C-5 relating to farm credit. The other condition is the suggestion of the hon. member for Peace River that hon. members should not be in any way estopped from referring to the matters dealt with by the bills to be discussed on second reading later today and which might conceivably be adopted before we have concluded the six days of the budget debate. I believe these are the conditions and requirements set out by hon. members. If I am correct I will put the question before the House in a moment. I believe the President of the Privy Council would like to add one word.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for first reading of the veterans bill today and I would prefer that it be held off until I am certain that hon. members will

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have ample copies of the bill as soon as first reading is given. There will be ample copies of the old age security amendments for members, but I would not want first reading to be given the other bill unless copies are available.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I have indicated the proposal made to the House by the President of the Privy Council and agreed to by hon. members who have commented. Is this agreed and so ordered?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I believe hon. members agree with the conditions mentioned by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) and the spokesmen for the opposition parties who made their comments afterwards.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

CANADA LABOUR CODE AND PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-206, to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Employment Act with respect to discrimination in employment based on age, sex and marital status.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING ESCALATION OF PENSIONS, RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS, INCREASE IN GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved, by unanimous consent, for leave to introduce Bill C-207, to amend the Old Age Security Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)