

to-day a consensus has been reached for the implementation of this measure.

**Senator Molgat:** Madam Minister, this is my concern. Are there any other changes of this kind which should be made and which, because of red tape, are not going anywhere but gather dust. We had another bill which was introduced by senator Marshall. It was turned down on procedural points. Admittedly there is agreement but we have reached a deadlock. Is there anything else which is dragging on and should someone shake up the system?

**Hon. Ms. Vézina:** We live in a society made up of human beings and I will agree with all of you that man is not perfect, so there is absolutely nothing perfect in this society. It is another measure we are adding on. I am convinced that debate has already been initiated on several measures with a view to improving the quality of life of the people you and I are serving here in Ottawa.

**Senator Molgat:** Perhaps you could suggest similar improvements and we could also introduce private member's bills which would speed up these plans. Do you have any recommendations to give us?

**Hon. Ms. Vézina:** Senator, your question becomes an invitation to come back to this House.

**Senator Molgat:** We would be delighted to see you back. I have another question. We have received a letter this month from Minister Benoît Bouchard. In the first paragraph, he says that he would give us a short outline—I suppose you read the letter—and at the end of this paragraph he says: “members and senators from the province of Quebec, please note that this amendment not apply to the Quebec Pension Plan.”

Was the minister suggesting that members and senators from Quebec should not vote or otherwise get involved in this bill, since he makes it quite clear it does not apply to the Quebec Pension Plan and it is therefore not in their interest to do so? Is that what he is suggesting?

**Ms. Vézina:** Although I am not an historian or a lawyer, I know it has been quite clear through the years that Quebec has its own plan. The purpose of this comment was merely to point out that it was unnecessary for the Quebec Pension Plan to submit to this measure. Speaking on behalf of my colleague, Minister Bouchard, who is responsible for this measure, I would urge members and senators from Quebec to vote for this bill because it is a measure that benefits the people in the rest of Canada. If we are here in Ottawa to work for Canada, whether we happen to be from Quebec or anywhere else, we have a duty as legislators to adopt measures that improve the quality of life of Canadians, and again, I would urge senators from Quebec to vote for this bill.

**Senator Molgat:** Since members and senators in this city, wherever they happen to come from, cannot vote on the Quebec Pension Plan because it is none of our business, would the minister suggest, on this premise, that her colleagues from Quebec should refrain from participating?

**Ms. Vézina:** Speaking as a Quebecer, I think we have a right and even an obligation to vote on a Canada Pension Plan.

**Senator Molgat:** In other words, we would have a say in the Quebec Pension Plan?

**Ms. Vézina:** I think you are asking what the responsibility is of the people here in this Chamber, and I think that as people who represent Canada, we have a responsibility to vote for this particular proposal.

**Senator Molgat:** I just want to add that it wasn't my idea but Mr. Bouchard's, who raised the matter in his letter. Thank you.

● (1530)

[English]

**Senator Haidasz:** I should thank the minister for answering so many questions. I hope my question is in order. I ask this question, Mr. Chairman, because I think it is very important.

Everything we are saying and doing this afternoon will perhaps not come about if we do not answer a question that was raised by a national newscaster on CFRB yesterday noon. I was serving as parliamentary secretary to the Honourable Judy LaMarsh when we brought in the Canada Pension Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan in 1963 and 1964, and of course we were assured that these pensions would be funded properly and that future generations of Canadians could expect to get their Canada Pension Plan when they chose, at age 60, 65 or later.

● (1540)

I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, whether the Canada Pension Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan are fully funded and whether the funds will guarantee that, twenty or thirty years from today, the people who are paying into these funds will benefit from that plan in that they will collect their pensions?

Mr. Kirk on CFRB yesterday said that the Canada Pension Plan is not funded, and that future generations should not expect to get pensions from the Canada Pension Plan. Does this apply only to the Canada Pension Plan alone, or to the Canada Pension Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan?

[Translation]

**Ms. Vézina:** My colleague, the minister for Health and Welfare, introduced Bill C-39 in the House. This Bill, which is now law, enables us to have control over all the information you asked for in your question.

There is also a process which is quite common, that is an evaluation which is made every five years to ensure that the program is properly managed.

[English]

**Senator Marshall:** Some of the questions I wanted to ask have been answered in reply to Senator Molgat. However, I want to confirm on paper that Bill C-57 replaces Bill C-280.

**Ms. Vézina:** Yes.