

Royal Assent

ry as perennial students. They will be perennial sponsors of projects which they initiate. This is like planning your own business but not being allowed to decide when it ends; that is up to the ones who administer the project.

I am inclined to agree on the necessity to eliminate the whole clause rather than just the part contained in paragraph (2)(a), because I believe that although there are abuses, in the case of LIP and LEAP projects there is no need to establish under the act another category which I consider to be a political category. People in that category can provide employment and receive money for the project, and when the project is completed they can draw unemployment insurance. In many cases the length of employment may last no longer than the life of the project.

I hope the minister will give some consideration to amending the provision on retirement at the age of 65. It may not be so important in rural areas and in some of the urban areas where it is not hard to find a job, but it is of major concern in my area and in some other parts of northern Ontario where many people 65 years of age and over should be given special consideration.

I suggest that if the minister, who is also responsible for Manpower, wishes to do something in this field, he might allay some of my fears and the fears of some of my colleagues, and certainly those of some people who are about to retire, by considering the provision of a period of training before retirement. The aim of such a training program would not be the time of employment but, rather, the time of retirement. We might then be in a much better position to recommend to persons over the age of 65 that they retire, with the knowledge that the benefits they receive will be sufficient to allow them to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

Other countries which face this problem make sure that the pension plans provide in the range of 50 per cent of the salaries or wages earned in the five or six best years of employment, but we in Canada, despite the claim to the contrary of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde), certainly do not come close to meeting the needs of many of the people who retire in this country. I hope that hon. members on all sides who are concerned with Canadians who have to retire at the age of 65 will give favourable consideration to the amendment before us, so that these people will find it less difficult to retire if they are allowed to do so gradually rather than being dumped off, as the hon. member who preceded me indicated, knowing that this Christmas will be the deadline for them.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received from Government House, which is as follows:

[Mr. Peters.]

Government House
Ottawa, December 15, 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Wishart F. Spence, O.B.E., Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 15th of December, at 8.00 p.m. for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

● (1710)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of the adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—External affairs; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Social security; the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald)—Regional economic expansion.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971

MEASURE TO ADD NEW CLASS OF INSURABLE EMPLOYMENT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-69, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander)?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.