

*Canada Pension Plan*

hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), and to some interjections, and quite frankly I have not yet got to the notes of my speech.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre expressed a fear that this bill might be killed once it was referred to a committee. We in the opposition do not feel that way. We want it to go to a committee where many of our questions can be answered in detail. The hon. member also said the government should undertake more public relations with respect to the Canada pension plan, and I agree with him on that.

Further, the hon. member said he was a little worried about central control. I would point out that he belongs to a party that believed in central control. In fact it held power in one province for over 20 years, yet now he says he is afraid of central control. I too do not like the idea of central control very much and, as was pointed out by another hon. member on the resolution stage, I believe private enterprise could do a better job of accounting and controlling the fund that will be accumulated.

The thing which surprises me is that an hon. member will say one thing at one time and another at another time when it suits his purpose, particularly regarding the rules and regulations of the house.

Earlier I was quoting from an editorial and I shall continue:

Costs of the plan, on which many questions have been raised, will be examined in the course of the parliamentary committee study the government has promised.

We in the official opposition endorse the idea of a committee study because we think that when things are ironed out in committee, third reading and final approval will be hastened.

The editorial added:

If more problems become evident then the government, in the light of its record on pensions in the last year, may be counted on to postpone action again.

I sincerely hope there will not be any more postponement. The editorial continued:

The faith of those who voted Liberal because they expected to retire in a few years with a good pension to which they had contributed is being sorely tried.

I shall not say anything further. I have listened to many interjections from the left hand corner, incidentally from a seat in which I used to sit myself.

**Mr. Rhéaume:** You were not as noisy, though.

[Mr. Gundlock.]

**Mr. Gundlock:** When I sat there I did not say a word.

**Mr. Byrne:** You haven't yet.

**Mr. Gundlock:** There are some members opposite who have not spoken yet. You know, Mr. Speaker, having listened to these interjections tonight I recall a speech made by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) in which he referred to the House of Commons as being more like a barn than a debating assembly. If I had the same gift of words as the Minister of Agriculture I might use different words.

**Mr. Baldwin:** That is not a gift, it is a curse.

**Mr. Gundlock:** Speaking on the resolution stage, as recorded at page 9915 of *Hansard* for November 9, the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. McCutcheon) said:

I am also concerned about the very high cost of administration which this plan will necessitate. The career of every citizen from the age of 18 to the age of 70 will have to be followed in the minutest detail.

I agree with that statement, because we have had experience of this many times.

I refer in particular to the experience in this regard of various of the provinces including the provinces of Ontario and Alberta. The plans adopted in these provinces appeared at the outset to be very good. Those responsible were complimented as the government has been complimented today. But there is one fact, which I suggest must be taken seriously into consideration—a fact which justifies my saying a word of warning, or a word of caution. In the last few years, say, in the last 10 years, the cost of most of these schemes has doubled. This is a thought I should like to leave with the minister and with the house. If the plan now under consideration follows the same pattern, if the same trend as to cost is to become apparent, do we not need to look very closely indeed at the legislation we have before us? In these circumstances I am very happy that the government is allowing this measure to go to a committee where the whole matter may be considered in the light of experience with co-operative plans of this kind in the past.

**Mr. Grégoire:** May I ask the hon. member a question? My question is very simple indeed. What did he say, exactly?

**Mr. Gundlock:** The question is so simple that it will not take long to answer.