

Retirement Age for Senators

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. Member for having sent me notice of his question. On this point I can only say, as I have said previously, that the matter is under consideration by the technical committee that advises me.

INDUSTRY**PURCHASE BY CANADIAN IN U.S. OF
CANADIAN MADE AUTOMOBILE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Industry. Under the United States-Canada free trade car treaty would it be possible for a Canadian citizen to order a Ford car made in Canada to be delivered and picked up at Buffalo at the same price as a United States citizen would pay for it?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that question is quite easy. If a Canadian citizen went to Buffalo to order a car, presumably he would pay the same price for it as would a United States citizen.

Mr. Hales: I have a supplementary question. Would the Canadian citizen be allowed to bring that car back to Canada duty free?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, the Customs Act in its application to this particular car would be the same as in respect of any purchase made in the United States.

THE SENATE**ESTABLISHMENT OF RETIREMENT AGE FOR
SENATORS**

The House resumed, from Friday, May 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. McIlraith (for the Prime Minister) for the second reading of Bill No. C-98, to make provision for the retirement of Members of the Senate.

Mr. Gerald A. Regan (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, in rising to participate in this debate on the proposed amendment regarding the Senate, I should like to preface my remarks by saying that I am wholly in accord with the constitutional considerations outlined by the hon. Member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Stewart) the other day. That hon. Member made a very valuable contribution to this debate.

I should like to commence my remarks by stating that I am clearly and strongly against the principle of having appointments

[Mr. Mather.]

to the Senate made by the provinces or by any other intermediate body, as has been suggested by some hon. Members of the smaller parties. Some of those hon. Members suggested that such a provision would be more democratic. I hope to illustrate in a very few remarks today why an appointment by any intermediate body would be less democratic and less representative of the Canadian public, and would result in a less efficient Senate. Let me go further by saying that any move to have appointments made by provincial Governments would be a further step toward stripping the Federal Government of its powers. This is something with which I strongly disagree.

I noted with interest and some surprise that the members of the New Democratic Party are against this reform calling for the retirement of Senators at age 75. Some of those hon. Members used the occasion of this debate to talk about the desirability of abolishing the Senate, while others talked about a different type of reform. Nevertheless, inasmuch as this legislation deals with a specific reform providing for the retirement of Senators at age 75, some of those hon. Members have gone on record as being members of a Party of status quo and against this particular reform.

● (3:20 p.m.)

I can only explain the opposition of the members of the New Democratic Party and the members of the Social Credit Party to the present arrangement with regard to the Senate, and why they are suggesting such drastic and unconstructive reform, by the fact that they are not in the position to place members in the Senate. While in certain parts of Canada members of the New Democratic Party or the Social Credit Party can be described as being in the mainstream of provincial political thought, I think it is undeniable that elections throughout the years have shown that neither the New Democratic Party nor the Social Credit Party nor the Creditistes are in the mainstream of Canadian political life, and that is why they have not been able to place anyone in the Senate.

Most Canadians, Mr. Speaker, want a two party system. Most Canadians think our two parties are big enough to allow for some range of economic views within those parties without the necessity of having small fringe parties. Most Canadians do not support small parties in federal politics.

An hon. Member: Why are we here?