

*Private Members' Business*

specifically with respect to the Canada Pension Plan disability pensions.

This Bill C-280 will change the limitation period for the Canada Pension Plan disability pension for someone who has not yet reached the age of 65.

This particular bill does not deal in any way with the Canada Pension Plan retirement pension nor with the Canada Pension Plan survivor benefits, nor with the orphan benefits under the Canada Pension Plan, nor with the death benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. It does not conflict in any way with Bill C-39 which the government has currently before this House.

This bill deals with the limitation period in the Canada Pension Plan disability pension.

Presently, the Canada Pension Plan disability pension provides that in order to qualify for such a pension a disabled person must have made contributions in at least two of the last three calendar years that are included in the contributory period plus having made contributions in five of the last 10 calendar years that are included in the contributory period. The contributory period is defined as beginning for someone my age, not your age, on January 1, 1966. For someone your age it was at the age of 18 and running until the age of 65 or 70 or until such person receives a retirement pension.

If a disabled person has not made those contributions and does not qualify in that way then that person is barred by the current limitation period from receiving a disability pension, even though they may have made contributions for many, many years to the Canada Pension Plan.

Bill C-280, this bill that is before the House, would change that limitation period so that a person who has made contributions for at least one-third of the contributory period is eligible to receive a Canada Pension Plan disability pension. The bill is aimed at rectifying what I believe is a most distressing problem and a real injustice which applies in many cases. An example may be where a disabled person really did not have any knowledge of the fact that there were rights of applying for a disability pension, cases in which the disabled person did not want to admit to themselves or their family that they were actually disabled or cases where perhaps they did not want to be a burden on the fund or on society and did not

want to actually apply for the pension because they had enough money at the time.

Later on when their disability became worse perhaps, when their financial position became worse or when they learned about the plan itself, then it was too late to make this sort of application. The current limitation period in the Canada Pension Plan for disability pensions bars people from making that application.

I have many cases. I suspect you may not, Mr. Speaker, because the Quebec Pension Plan actually has a provision similar to the one in this bill already and has for a number of years, but the Canada Pension Plan does not. This situation however first came to my attention when I wanted to run for Parliament, back prior to the 1984 election. I was out knocking on doors in my constituency in the years 1982-83 and I knocked on a door in Victoria village, a portion of my riding, the home of a Mr. Carl Stoyanoff and his family.

Mr. Stoyanoff had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease back in 1972 at the age of 48. He continued to work until 1976 hoping that some sort of new medication or some new therapy might come along that would return him to 100 per cent health. He was not aware of the Canada Pension Plan disability pension at that time. He was not aware of it at all. When he found out about it and made his application for the pension, it turned out that he was just a few months past the deadline for the limitation period in the Canada Pension Plan.

This is a man who had contributed for years and years to the Canada Pension Plan. He is supposed to be entitled to a disability pension and he is barred from it because of this late application.

I made representations on his behalf. We went through all the bureaucratic steps. We appealed to the minister and nothing worked. In 1987 Mr. Stoyanoff was still not receiving a Canada Pension Plan disability pension and applied for an early retirement pension at the age of 60.

Since he had never received a disability pension, his contributory period continued to run on and there was a period of some 11 years of disability, including four years of hospitalization, which went completely unrecognized by the current rules of the Canada Pension Plan. Thus Mr. Stoyanoff received a very reduced retirement pen-