

Old Age Security Act

Commons. I think it will benefit greatly those individuals who are in desperate need.

Bill C-40 is a good Bill. I will vote for it wholeheartedly. I am sure Hon. Members on both sides will do likewise. The Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) said that we have not done anything in our own caucus. Unfortunately he is not a member of our caucus, so he does not know.

Mr. Taylor: Fortunately.

Mr. Dingwall: The door is open for Hon. Members if they wish to attend.

Mr. Taylor: No thank you.

Mr. Dingwall: I have a large number of constituents who have received substantial reductions in the moneys they previously received from the Government of Canada as a result of workmen's compensation being included in the calculation for the purposes of GIS. I could talk about Cecil Boutelier and a \$37.77 reduction; Mrs. Michael Murray and her \$134 reduction; Russell McLean and his \$46 per month reduction; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pittman and their \$90 per month reduction. All those cases are ones of hardship and ought to be rectified.

I have listened to the Hon. Member for Bow River on a variety of topics in the House. In answer to his question, Hon. Members on this side of the House have echoed the same sentiments I am expressing this afternoon. However, I tell him and all Hon. Members opposite that when Bill C-139 was passed in the House, not one Member was on his feet arguing its provisions as they affected senior citizens and those in receipt of the guaranteed income supplement because it was a very technical inclusion. We could talk about Section 81(1)(h) as it affects Section 56(1)(v) and how it affects Section 110(1)(f)(ii). There are many sections tied into the Income Tax Act which Hon. Members did not recognize until notices were sent out to the individuals that compensation was to be included for the purposes of GIS. As a Member of Parliament representing such individuals in my constituency, I do not like the provisions of the Bill. I want to have them changed. I am seeking the support not only of Hon. Members opposite but of Hon. Members on this side as well.

Miss MacDonald: Come to committee and you will get your chance.

Mr. Dingwall: I am glad to hear the offer of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). I will follow it up with her. It is unjust that individuals in the greatest need can be hoodwinked by a piece of technical legislation which has been missed by all Members of Parliament. It was only raised in the House of Commons when individuals affected by the legislation filled out for the very first time papers as they had done for the last 10 years or 12 years. The situation is a serious one which all Hon. Members should look at realistically and carefully. We ought to do something about it.

There are Hon. Members on this side of the House, many of whom I cannot speak for, who talk about the concerns of senior citizens and those in greatest need. Likewise there are those on the opposite side of the House. Now is the time to put their money where their mouth is. We can change this injustice if there is the will in the House, an injustice which is affecting individuals all across the country.

I have named a few people, but I could talk about Mabel MacNeil of Reserve Mines, Dick Buckland of Glace Bay, Shirley Reid of Donkin, John MacNeil of New Waterford, David Maxwell of Sydney Mines and, as I mentioned, Peter Murray, President of the Senior Citizens' Club of Glace Bay. This issue should not be tossed aside lightly. Any Minister or any representative of any Minister who wishes to toss it aside is doing a great injustice to individuals in the greatest of need.

The Hon. Member for Oxford was kind enough to allow me to make these comments. He now wishes to speak, therefore, I will say in conclusion that I am hopeful that we can get together either with the Minister privately or in committee to try to change what I believe is an injustice. I want the record to show that the Hon. Member for Oxford has been very helpful in bringing this issue to the floor of the House of Commons. With some political will on that side and on this side, I am confident we will resolve it in favour of those individuals who have been dealt an injustice.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): There follows a ten-minute period for questions or comments.

Mr. Sargeant: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member whether there are any more of his constituents whom he did not name.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I have a very long list of names. I know the Hon. Member is not trying to be disrespectful to the individuals I have mentioned, as he is an honourable gentleman. The individuals I have mentioned have suffered a great loss. I do not want to minimize their loss, nor do I believe that he wishes to minimize their loss. In answer to his question, there is a great number of individuals whom I have not named. The ones to whom I have referred are some of the more glaring cases who volunteered to allow me to use their particular circumstances as examples for the attention of bureaucrats and politicians. There are a great many individuals in that circumstance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): If there are no further questions or comments, for continuing debate, the Hon. Member for Oxford (Mr. Halliday).

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, indeed it is a pleasure to follow the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall). The issue before us today is not really a small one even though the number of people affected is a relatively small one. However, today could well be a momentous day in the life of the Parliament of Canada.