

Canada Pension Plan

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order; the hon. member who is now making his speech has a right, under the rules of this house, to make his speech without being interrupted. I am sure the hon. member for Lapointe would want to accord the hon. member for Lethbridge the ordinary courtesies of the house. The hon. member for Lethbridge.

Mr. Gundlock: In deference to you, Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing, if the hon. member for Lapointe wishes to ask me a question, to yield the floor to him. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, this is what I wanted to say. As I said earlier the members of the official opposition have been blamed particularly for taking the time of this house.

Mr. Grégoire: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gundlock: I pointed out to hon. members of this house, and I hope to the public of Canada, several reasons why I felt the official opposition was not responsible for taking all this time. I have repeated this statement on several occasions. I think the main reason this session has taken so long and has led to such editorial headlines as the one I have quoted, is the multiplicity of parties. The reference is to this exhausted parliament. I want to say that I do not feel exhausted and I do not feel the minister whose bill we are discussing feels exhausted. Some of the other members of this house may feel exhausted because they are not here. They must have something else to do; perhaps the work has been too much for them.

I wanted to say that the main reason for the length of the session is not the work of this house but results from the fact that there are five parties in the house.

Mr. Grégoire: May I ask a question?

Mr. Gundlock: Yes.

Mr. Grégoire: Does the hon. member not agree that when the Conservatives have disappeared after the next election it will be better in this house?

Mr. Gundlock: In answer to the hon. member I would agree that when this house returns to being a two party house we will have a much better house and much shorter sessions. We will get on with our business. I am not too sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservatives will disappear.

Mr. Grégoire: Yes, they will: You will disappear.

Mr. Gundlock: Perhaps I will, but not the Conservative party. In the light of what I

have been reading in the newspapers, I say there will be other parties disappear but not the Conservative party.

Mr. Grégoire: We will be back, anyway.

Mr. Gundlock: You are talking again. You talk about maintaining the rules here, so let us see you do some of it.

I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that the reason this session is so long and so tedious—do not get the wrong impression, we are still here fighting—is the five parties. I refer particularly to the fifth party.

Mr. Grégoire: You are the fifth.

Mr. Gundlock: What do we see in connection with the fourth party? We see the leader of it operating under government controls. What do we see in connection with the next one?

Mr. Knowles: Order; what has this to do with the bill?

Mr. Gundlock: I hear someone say "what has this to do with the bill?" What do questions which are not addressed to you have to do with the bill, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Knowles: My question was addressed to you, Mr. Speaker. What does this have to do with the bill?

Mr. Gundlock: I am simply answering questions that were addressed to me by an hon. member of this house. Is that good enough?

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Gundlock: I should like, then, to refer to some statements made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Grégoire: You both have nothing to say.

Mr. Gundlock: Since you do so much talking why don't you pay your telephone bill?

Mr. Knowles: To whom was that remark addressed?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. I would request members of the house to allow the hon. member for Lethbridge to continue, and I would request him to confine his remarks to the bill.

Mr. Gundlock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I prepared a very mellow speech and I wanted a couple of questions answered.

Mr. Byrne: What speech?

Mr. Gundlock: I have not been able to get to it yet. I listened to the minister, to the