

**Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, this motion having been considered previously and debated for some 50 minutes, the rules provide that the whole debate may extend for 90 minutes whereafter there can be a five minute resumé by the minister and a five minute closing by the proposer of the motion. Then, the bells would be rung for a vote. After discussion, it has been suggested that the most expeditious way to dispose of the matter now would be for the Parliamentary Secretary to the minister to speak for five minutes, followed by a five minute closing by the hon. member, and then the members would be called in for a vote.

• (5:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I wish first to express to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) my admiration for the way he conducted the debate.

His perseverance in dealing with questions related to social welfare and income security is, of course, very commendable and I hardly need to point out that the questions he raises so frequently in the House are of the greatest interest for the government and particularly for the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro).

Mr. Speaker, the report prepared by Dr. Willard, Deputy Minister of Welfare, is only a working document which summarizes the long experience of this eminent civil servant in the field of social welfare and income security. His work is but an appraisal of social security in Canada covering several years and, I repeat, this is only a working document for the time being.

It has never been the practice of the government in the past—and I am convinced it will maintain this line—to table working documents prepared in whole or in part by its officers. I can only renew the request from the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre to the effect that, having listened to these explanations, he might withdraw his motion.

[English]

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in closing this debate may I point out that what we are asking for is the tabling of the Willard report. I can find no better words to describe this report than those just used by the Parliamentary Secretary. He said it is a working document. That is exactly the point. If it were a white paper, or a statement of government policy, and if the government wanted to change that policy, I could understand its reluctance to table such a document. The Willard Report is not a white paper and it is not a statement of government policy. It is a working document. If I may again use the words of the Parliamentary

### *Welfare and Income Security*

Secretary, it is an assessment of the social security situation in Canada.

A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of this report. I have no doubt it cost a good many dollars and the Canadian people have paid for it. Social security is a tremendously important issue in Canada, and I contend that this Parliament and the people of Canada have the right to see and know what is in this document, this working paper, the Willard Report.

I repeat my argument that if there is any honesty at all to the idea that there should be full disclosure of information, if there is any honesty at all to the desire to have participatory democracy, there is no excuse whatsoever for keeping this document secret. This is an offence to Parliament, it is an affront to the Canadian people, and I insist that this document be tabled in the House of Commons. Based on this document the government will be making its decisions in the field of social security. It will be deciding what it is going to do about pensions for retired people in Canada. Perhaps what is going to be done for veterans will also be based upon it.

The government talks about participatory democracy, about the people being involved, but members of this House are not permitted to see this important document. I say again, as I said in my opening remarks when I moved the motion on October 29, that most of us in this place know what an excellent civil servant Dr. Willard is and has been for many years. We are fully satisfied that this document is a valuable one. It is not the private preserve of the government; it belongs to the Parliament and the people of Canada, and I call for an affirmative vote on this motion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The question is on the motion. All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre) which was negatived on the following division:

• (5:10 p.m.)

Alexander  
Alkenbrack  
Barnett  
Beaudoin  
Bell  
Benjamin

YEAS  
Messrs:

Broadbent  
Burton  
Cadieu  
Caouette  
Crouse  
Danforth