

Canada Pension Plan

and those under provincial jurisdiction, is relevant in this debate.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, with respect to what the hon. member for Bow River has just said, I am quite aware of the fact that he is a lawyer. It reminds me of the old saw about being unable to judge necessity because necessity knows no law. The hon. member has pointed out to the committee that this clause deals with regulations. He has made remarks about things we have left out of the bill and which might be left out of the regulations. If my hon. friend really pretends to be a lawyer he should be quite aware that it is not within the jurisdiction of the federal government to deal with the matter he listed.

We have listened to a number of hon. members for an hour and 20 minutes talking about something they well know is not within the jurisdiction of this parliament and not within the confines of this clause. We have spent virtually three weeks in the committee of the whole on this bill following upon 51 meetings of a special joint committee. We have dealt with all but one general clause of the bill, and that is clause 1 which is still to come. It seems to me that if hon. members do have a desire for knowledge they will put pertinent questions and we will do the best we can to answer those questions. If hon. members mean only to filibuster or to delay the bill, then surely they can even do that by keeping within the confines of a particular clause. Since the chair and the committee have given all kinds of latitude to hon. members from all corners of the house to this point, I would ask that finally my hon. friends now confine themselves to what is within the bill, unless they propose to move an amendment, and we have had no notice in the last three weeks that the opposition does intend to move an amendment to the clause. I would ask that the amended clause be put to the committee.

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Chairman, may I intimate to the minister that certainly we on this side of the house do not intend to receive lectures from the hon. lady. She said that we have spent almost three weeks on this bill. I have been in this house for close on 12 years and have never known a more complex piece of legislation than this. This particular piece of legislation demands the closest of scrutiny. It is one of the most important as well as complex pieces of legislation that has ever been put on the books

[Mr. Woolliams.]

in this country or that ever will be put on the books in this country.

All I want to say, Mr. Chairman, is that it ill behoves the hon. lady to lecture members of the opposition who have in the past, as they still are doing, tried to point out weaknesses in the bill. All we want to do is straighten it out and make it more effective for the people of Canada.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of personal privilege. I do not intend to answer the hon. lady in the same language she used in reference to myself, pertaining to being a lawyer. I will leave the record to speak for itself in that regard. It is not my intention to lecture the hon. lady, but I think if she were a little more hospitable, had a little more knowledge of psychology and was a little less legalistic she might be able to pilot this bill through without the assistance of another minister and her parliamentary secretary. This minister has always been most disrespectful. She thinks she can get away with that attitude by travelling under the auspices of being a lady, and therein lies her shame.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a matter of personal privilege. I wish to state simply one fact. The former minister of health and welfare was a member of the special committee and is a member of this committee. He is one of the few who have been here most of the time. I have never objected throughout our discussions, and certainly will not, to the most detailed scrutiny of this legislation; but I do most heartily object to the taking up of the time of all members on all sides of this house with discussions which are not in any form connected with the scrutiny of this legislation, and are not pertinent to it, but are discussions of matters wholly outside the constitutional jurisdiction of this house and of this government. As a matter of fact, I welcome any pertinent discussion in respect of this legislation. Indeed in the past two years it has been a real joy to me to learn as much as I have had the opportunity to learn about the way in which pension plans operate.

An hon. Member: You have not learned much.

Mr. Woolliams: That was a short-lived pleasure.

Miss LaMarsh: I appeared before the joint committee for approximately three and a half hours and answered, to the best of my ability, all the questions that were put to me at that