

*Old Age Security Act*

and bring in the next order of business. That is our position. We would like to move matters along. We make this offer to all parties in this House in the hope that we can speed up the business of the House, get the legislation passed and see that our old people are in receipt of their increased pensions as quickly as possible. Is there agreement?

**An hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. This does not seem to me to be a point of order. It is a suggestion which does not seem to be acceptable. The hon. member for Bruce (Mr. Whicher).

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Bruce.

**Mr. Nielsen:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I recognized the hon. member for Yukon on an alleged point of order. I told him it was not a point of order. It has been the custom of Speakers of this House to rule that a point of order does not arise from a point of order. I now recognize the hon. member for Bruce.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In my respectful submission, it has long been the custom of this House that when an hon. member rises and asks the Chair to request whether or not consent exists in the House to a suggestion made, that request is made by the Chair. With great respect, I ask Your Honour to request whether there is unanimous consent to the suggestion that we pass the bill now without further debate.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I object to a point of order being used as a political ploy.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. All my instincts were right in the first place when I recognized the hon. member for Bruce.

**Mr. Ross Whicher (Bruce):** Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a pleasure to have the opportunity to say a few words in respect of Bill C-147. Also, I am most pleased, as a back-bench member of this House, that the suggestion made by the House leader of the Conservative party was not accepted by hon. members. On such an important topic as this, one that hits at the very fibre of Canada in that it would improve the lot of elderly Canadians who made the country what it is, one would think the Conservative Party would show some interest in this bill. I enjoyed—

• (2100)

**An hon. Member:** We have heard your speech twice already.

**Mr. Whicher:**—the presentation which the minister gave this afternoon and I congratulate him. This is the first bill he has presented to the House and it is probably one of the most important bills he will ever present, even if he

[Mr. Nielsen.]

stays here as long as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

**An hon. Member:** No chance.

**Mr. Whicher:** I listened with interest to the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) this afternoon. We heard a considerable amount of humour, more humour than facts; in any event, it was enjoyable. I also listened to his criticism which, I suppose, according to him was constructive. Then I come to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**An hon. Member:** Why?

**Mr. Alexander:** I remember, you are the one who said that our senior citizens never had it so good; you said that six months ago.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please.

**Mr. Whicher:** I do not suppose there is anyone—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Whicher:** I want to tell you fellows over there something. If you say too much, you will not be talking for too long.

I do not suppose anyone has crossed swords with another hon. member—in a friendly way, I hope—in the last four or five years as often as I have with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. On the other hand, I have always appreciated his sincerity and I cannot let this occasion pass by without paying my compliments to him as an individual.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Whicher:** He told us, for example, that 30 years ago when he was in the House in 1943, old age pensions were \$10 a month. I believe that is what he said.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** No, \$20.

**Mr. Whicher:** One would be less than honest if he did not say that one of the reasons old age pensions have reached the height which they have in Canada—although they may not be as high as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre would wish them to be—is his efforts over the years.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Alexander:** This is a strange parliament.

**Mr. Whicher:** He has constantly been a thorn in the side of the government party, whichever party it might be, to try to get pensions raised; and he has been successful. May I respectfully and in a very general way remind him of something he said this afternoon, that his party was for complete universality. I believe that was one of the main themes of his speech.

I would like to ask him the following question; perhaps on another occasion he might be able to answer it. Why is it that the first thing the New Democratic Party in British