

These minor amendments allow for the protection of benefit eligibility of CPP contributors who are unable to apply in time because of incapacity and for the reimbursement of CPP disability benefits to the administrator of a disability income plan under approved conditions at the beneficiary's request.

Another minor amendment concerns the sharing of information among the Old Age Security, the Canada Pension Plan and the family allowance programs. This will provide improved service for all our clients. Another minor amendment concerns information sharing between these three programs and provincial administrators in limited circumstances which would allow for the faster provision of provincial benefits in services for dual clients. A number of other minor administrative and technical changes are incorporated within the bill.

In closing, I thank all members in the House and members on the committee for their very constructive and their truly co-operative efforts in dealing with the legislation. This package of amendments is a fine example of federal and provincial co-operation and negotiation.

The amendments will, among other things, ensure that the plan remains soundly financed well into the future. The children's benefit increase for dependent children of the deceased and disabled CPP contributors is truly a significant benefit improvement for a particularly vulnerable group.

As members know the legislative timeframe we are working under is very tight. The target date for implementation of the proposed changes is January 1, 1992. After Parliament has approved the bill, the approval of two-thirds of the provinces with two-thirds of the population is required to implement the legislative changes. I know the provinces have already put their machinery into motion so that they can be ready to act immediately once the federal parliamentary process has been completed.

Once again I want to underscore the minister's support and appreciation for the committee members' work, the witnesses' testimony and the suggestions put forward by all members of this House on how to improve the Canada Pension Plan.

The minister has asked that I inform the House today that he will write to his provincial counterparts and request immediate discussion on the proposed sugges-

tions which will allow for a better and a fairer disability coverage. Certainly we hope that the provinces will agree and in turn support further amendments to the CPP legislation. Indeed it is unfortunate that these proposals did not get included in Bill C-39.

The minister will also provide to the appropriate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare copies of these letters.

• (1550)

This is one thing that I promised at the legislative committee and indeed here this morning in the House. Concerns were raised by both my colleagues on this side of the House and the other side of the House with regard to the CPP legislation, how we can assist the disabled, and indeed credit splitting due to an fortunate divorce or separation within a family. These concerns will be addressed by the minister to the provinces with a copy of his letter to the appropriate committee.

I know that we can do more, that we should be doing more and that we will want to be able to count on the co-operation of all parties like we have had in future efforts to protect and improve the social insurance of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much and look forward to this debate at third reading.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):
Mr. Speaker, I too wish to participate in this debate on third reading of Bill C-39.

The parliamentary secretary has outlined the position of the Government of Canada with regard to this particular piece of legislation. I wish to reiterate what my colleague from Winnipeg has said with regard to Bill C-39. We will be supporting Bill C-39 on third reading. That is not to say that we are completely pleased with all the contents of the bill or the lack of certain provisions in the bill.

I wish to state for the record we are aware, as debated previously, that Bill C-39 will result in an increase in Canada pension contribution rates both for employees and for employers. This plan is supported from coast to coast. The arrangements are somewhat different in the province of Quebec, but it is indeed a national program to which Canadians have contributed voluntarily—it is now mandated by law—and have done so for a good number of years.