

Senator Olson: I believe I understand the implications involved in the question, and I shall try to provide a reply.

Senator Roblin: Thank you.

TWO-PRICE WHEAT ACT

BILL TO AMEND—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Second reading of the Bill S-6, intituled: "An Act to amend the Two-Price Wheat Act".—(Honourable Senator Argue, P.C.).

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, may I ask a question in connection with Bill S-6? When is it the intention of the government to proceed with the debate on this bill?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I cannot answer that question specifically, but if the honourable senator will ask it tomorrow, Senator Argue, who has just left the chamber, may be able to enlighten him.

Senator Roblin: Perhaps the honourable the minister might ask him.

Senator Olson: Yes.

Order stands.

RETIREMENT AGE POLICIES

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the report of the Special Committee of the Senate on Retirement Age Policies, entitled *Retirement Without Tears*, tabled in the Senate on Tuesday, April 15, 1980.

Hon. David A. Croll: Honourable senators, my first words must be of congratulation to His Honour the Speaker. I knew His Honour for many years when he was associated with the labour movement. He was recognized for being always dedicated to the union. He served the movement well for many years and since then has held many important positions. We mortals play many parts during the course of our lives, and Senator Marchand has had wide experience and has done well. We look forward to his leadership in the Senate in his capacity as Speaker, and I congratulate him on his appointment.

I wish also to pay tribute to Senator Grosart, who held the office of Speaker of the Senate for much too short a time but who nevertheless enriched that office during his tenure. He was faced with an unusual situation, with three honourable senators holding cabinet positions, and there is no doubt that he controlled the Question Period extremely well. He is a traditionalist, a student of parliamentary procedure, and he made some innovations. It can fairly be said that it was a good year for Senator Grosart and for the Senate while he was in office.

[Senator Roblin.]

Referring now to the report of the Special Committee of the Senate on Retirement Age Policies, I cannot emphasize too clearly that the report is the result of the dedication of the members of the committee. The report, entitled *Retirement Without Tears*, is a human document. It is not one that has been spewed out by a computer. It is the product of the members of that committee.

The special committee recommended the abolition of mandatory retirement based on age, the doubling of the Canada Pension Plan benefits, and the extension of the system to cover six million housewives. The committee also proposed ways of improving the position of mobile workers.

Honourable senators found on their desks today a study entitled *The Retirement Income System in Canada*, which was made by some very competent public servants. This document is of considerable comfort to the members of the committee, because it repeats what we said. It may say it better, and perhaps more often—"Here are the alternatives, and you choose". And we chose them. We knew the alternatives.

Quoting from the press, the *Montreal Gazette's* headline is: "Retirement grim if pensions go unprotected, says report", and the *Ottawa Journal's* headline is: "Pensions mean poverty, grim report reveals." The report to which I have just referred is an excellent one and worthy of honourable senators' attention. It supports us in almost every respect.

None of the recommendations contained in the report of the special committee will involve any cost to the government, either provincial or federal. It will not cost the government a penny or a nickel—not even a plug nickel. The workers' premiums will be money that will be saved. It will be invested, it will be indexed, and from it will come pensions and other benefits. It is a form of non-inflationary savings. The employer's contribution will be less than that paid in any other western country.

● (2150)

Here are some 36 recommendations. I would like the permission of the house to have them appended to today's *Hansard*.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(For recommendations see Appendix "B", p. 89).

Senator Croll: What I particularly wanted to get across to this house, and to the country, is that this is not just another report. I do not say it is any better than other reports that have been presented, but in politics timing is vital, and the report indicates, as you will realize from what I have told you about the report presented by the government authorities, that the committee, so to speak, is "with it". We are presenting a report to the Senate, but it deals with more than just the problem of compulsory retirement and pensions. It opens the door to a more just society.

Let me just draw a picture for you. The 1950s were dedicated to the youth of this country. They were the fellows who said you couldn't trust anyone over 30, and that anybody over 40