

Government Orders

kinds of changes. There is where the dilemma was in the bill, the bill that was presented to us.

I do not want to leave the impression like the Liberals are trying to leave that we can amend this bill and bring forward these amendments. Yes, we have some serious problems with the Canada Pension Act. We all know that. However, amendments are being brought forward and people are being given hope that we are going to amend this bill and change it, when we know in this House that two-thirds of the provinces will have to agree to it. The Canada Pension Act is not going to come before the House until 1994. Here is the last one that was done. I blame both the Liberals and the Conservatives for not dealing with these problems when they were in power. The Conservatives are in power and we should not be dealing with amendments to Bill C-39. We should be dealing with amendments to the Canada Pension Act.

The concerns and amendments that have been put forward are nothing but a farce because they are not going anywhere. They cannot be implemented. How are they going to be implemented? The chief actuary and the provinces are involved. The Canada Pension Act is what we need before this House, not Bill C-39.

We are going to support the amendments, but I do not want to leave the impression with the people of Canada that we are making any changes, because we are not making any changes.

• (1120)

We are not making any changes until such time as we can come forward and the governments have the will to bring forward the Canada Pension Plan. It is much outdated. We have been told by the actuary that the private sector is way ahead of the government, the public sector. The private sector has better programs in place than the Canada Pension Plan. Shame. The Government of Canada and the people of Canada should be leading the private sector. We have been told by the actuaries that that is not happening.

With a great deal of respect I say to the Liberal Party that it has placed these amendments knowing full well that there are procedures which have to be followed here, knowing full well that there is no way that they are going to be implemented. We are going to support them or we are going to put them there, but my party and I do not want to leave the impression out there that we have made any significant changes here today. We have not.

I supported the member for Don Valley East and supported his motion, an excellent motion, and got the consent of all of the House. The reality is that it passed, it went through all of those readings. What is going to happen to that bill? It was passed unanimously in this House of Commons and stated that if people qualify they would be able to get their compensation regardless of the period of time.

It was passed. What is the procedure of that bill? I will tell you what the procedure is, as I understand it. It was passed unanimously by the House of Commons. The minister will take that to the provinces. He will discuss it with the provinces and if two-thirds of the provinces agree and accept it, then it will sit for another two years in limbo until such time as the Canada Pension Act is opened up. Then it will be implemented into the Canada Pension Plan and then it will become law.

Regarding your amendments, although they are all very good amendments and there are many more that I could also present, the fact of the matter is that until we open up the Canada Pension Act and we get into that act and make those changes we are not going to have any meaningful changes.

I will get into the bill itself a little bit later. The fact remains with regard to the \$35 that we are talking about for disabled orphans, everyone wants to make sure that we pass this bill and get it through, and the reality is that we are going to pass it, it is going to become a part of the government's agenda, it is going to meet with the provinces, and if it is agreed upon and I am sure the provinces will agree because they are—

An hon. member: What is the problem?

Mr. Parker: The problem is that the provinces if they wished could deduct dollar for dollar. If you get a \$35 increase and the provinces decide that minimum is coming there, they could deduct dollar for dollar and therefore in some cases the increase will be nil. That is the problem.

We have to do something. I am suggesting that we call upon the government. Let us sit down in a meaningful way with the Government of Canada and the provinces and address the real problem, the Canada Pension Act. 1966 was when this act was invoked and it is time for this government, and it was time for your government when you were in power, to do the right thing and to redo the act.