

Canada Pension Plan

Mr. Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to draw to your attention a rule with which I am sure you are familiar. Standing order 34 requires members in committee in their comments and observations to maintain at least a degree of relevance to the subject matter under debate. I also draw to your attention clause 91, which begins:

The governor in council may make regulations—

And then it goes on to state the various kinds of regulations which may be made.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, in view of the extensive examination of the general principles of this bill which has pervaded the debate on each clause from the time we started, that we must insist that the rules be observed, and it is certainly reasonable to request at this time strict relevancy and nothing else.

Mr. Skoreyko: Mr. Chairman, I am not rising on the question of privilege or on the point of order; I am rising to pursue the question I raised originally.

The Deputy Chairman: I should like to make a comment on the point of order before the hon. member proceeds. I would remind members of the committee of standing order 59(2), which says:

Speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Again I remind hon. members we are discussing clause 91, which deals with regulations.

Mr. Skoreyko: Mr. Chairman, I sincerely appreciate your remarks. With all due deference I want only to deal with some remarks which were made by the Minister of National Revenue. I appreciate the intervention of the hon. member for Halifax, knowing full well—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

[*Text*]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Villeneuve on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

At the present time, the hon. member is not speaking to a point of order. A while ago, the hon. member for Halifax raised a point of order, and referred to standing order 34. You yourself referred to standing order 59(2) to point out that we should confine ourselves

to the clause we are discussing, that is, clause 91 of Bill No. C-136.

Now, since eight o'clock, the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Horner) and others are apparently discussing clause 1 and even the general principle of the bill which is before us.

I wish that you would give a ruling on this point of order raised by the hon. member for Halifax, or that you apply standing order 59(2) which you mentioned, so we may know if we can discuss other matters than those included in clause 91.

We would like to know if we have the right, the privilege, the opportunity or the chance to discuss any matter with respect to clause 91, and I would ask you to give a ruling on this point.

[*Text*]

The Deputy Chairman: I must quote standing order 59(2) once more:

Speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

At the moment the question before the committee is clause 91, dealing with regulations. I should again point out that there is no information to be had regarding regulations, which cannot be drawn until the bill itself is passed. I think the main question before the house is: Does or does not the governor in council have authority to make regulations, as set out in paragraphs (a) to (i) in this clause? I would request the indulgence of the members of the committee to confine themselves to the exact meaning of clause 91.

Mr. Woolliams: With the greatest respect, Mr. Chairman, I would go along with your ruling to this extent, that surely anything which can be done by regulation is relevant. If the government have left so much out of the bill with respect to private pensions, pensions which would affect the unions of the country, the teachers' organizations, pensions which come under provincial jurisdiction, and if they can make deals by order in council, surely those matters are relevant. I am sure the minister can bear with me because I have not said one word on any clause of this bill, but I do say with the greatest respect and with all sincerity that anything which can be done by regulation is debatable on this clause. I say again that anything which can be done by regulation affecting any one of the private pension schemes, particularly those of the teachers and the unions