

*Government Orders*

I want to refer also to the point about the late applications. That is the area in which many people are suffering and not getting the kind of help they should be getting. Statistics on the number of late applications are not available. However, departmental officials have indicated that approximately 5.5 to 6 per cent of applicants are denied because the individual is not eligible for benefits because of lack of earnings. It is not only because of lack of earnings. It is because of the late application and the late filing. That is what I am finding in many cases. The individual did not know that they were entitled to Canada Pension and they did not apply. When they do apply they are told: "I am sorry, you're too late, so you can't get it".

Whether the government chooses to amend the definition of disability or expand educational or retraining programs into the CPP disability system, I believe that progress must be made. I hope the minister carefully reviews the minutes of the committee to see the level of support for these proposals from all sides of the House. I cannot over emphasize that point.

As the witnesses indicated, they do not want to be sitting at home in their rooms and not be given the opportunity to try to lift themselves up and to retrain or try to find even the very simplest of work. If they do that they are going to lose their pensions.

There is another area which is probably of deeper concern to every individual out there paying into the Canada pension. That is the funding of Canada pension.

• (1640)

The actuary came before our committee and ten minutes before he introduced his memo to the government House leader so that he could come and speak on his concerns.

There are some very serious problems on the graphs he is showing. The funding of the Canada pension as he has indicated needs to be very seriously looked at. Not only the funding of the Canada pension, but also the funding of our medicare system, our social assistance programs and our Old Age Security program need to be looked at, because it is all relevant; the age of our people, the changes of the age limits in the work force,

the changes in the work force and the amount of money going into the Canada pension. By the year 2021 our young people could be faced with some very, very serious decisions to be made.

We have about 20 years to get this thing done. I would urge the parliamentary secretary to the minister of health and welfare to try to convene the committee and let us start starting. I am not talking immediately, but I am talking about reconvening the committee to have a look at the Canada Pension Act from one end to the other, and spend our time doing something constructive as a committee.

We all know those problems are there. We know there are certain procedures we have to follow, but we should start immediately to go through the Canada Pension Plan, really look at those areas as a committee, start to do something in advance and start to talk to the provinces. Then coming back in a meaningful way at the proper time we could bring about the kind of required changes that are going to be needed for the whole Canada Pension Plan. Let us get on with the new technologies, let us go on with the provisions of some retraining, let us go on with the provisions of allowing disabled workers to get back into the workplace in some meaningful way.

I enjoyed that committee very, very much. I think the witnesses, the people, the actuary and the information we received were excellent. I still say let us not leave it there now, let us continue on in a meaningful way.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Questions or comments? Debate? Before I recognize the hon. member for Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia, it is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 38—

[*Translation*]

—to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Racism; the hon. member for South West Nova—National Defence; the hon. member for Gatineau—La Lièvre—Agriculture; the hon. member for Trinity—Spadina—Immigration; the hon. member for Stormont—Dundas—Cross-border Shopping.