

Although there is no doubt that these measures do not meet all the needs of disabled persons and their children, I think that we will all agree that it is nevertheless an important contribution, honourable senators, especially in a time of economic hardship such as this. I therefore ask all senators to cooperate fully so that this bill can be passed as soon as possible.

As for questions arising from Bill C-280 and those raised in the debate on Bill C-39, the Minister of National Health and Welfare has promised to submit them to the provinces in a formal federal-provincial consultation to be held later this year on possible changes to the Canada Pension Plan that would require the provinces' approval.

[English]

In closing, honourable senators, I would like to again thank the representative of Don Valley East for raising this important question of disability benefits.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lorna Marsden: I wonder if the senator will take a question on this bill.

● (1510)

Under the terms of this bill, although not exactly in the wording of this bill, a late applicant for a disability pension will have a determination as to whether or not that person is eligible. Can the senator tell us how that determination will be made? Will it be by way of a board, a tribunal, or what?

Senator Lavoie-Roux: When Minister Vézina comes to discuss this bill in Committee of the Whole, we will have a chance to get further details about this matter. She will be able to answer immediately what the actual recourse will be for the determination or for an appeal if the person is not satisfied.

Senator Marsden: Honourable senators, then, speaking on behalf of our side, I will not delay the debate on this bill. As all members of this chamber know, we supported the previous bill and we support this bill. We look forward to hearing from the minister.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Honourable senators, I should have mentioned in my opening remarks that it was our intention to ask for leave that the Senate resolve itself into Committee of the Whole and invite Minister Monique Vézina to come and answer questions. Perhaps at this stage I may do so.

Senator Molgat: That was part of our agreement, to proceed today with leave to go directly into Committee of the Whole, so I will not hold things up at all.

[Translation]

Honourable senators, I would just like to thank Senator Lavoie-Roux for her presentation on the bill. As I said earlier, we support the passage of this bill. I congratulate the government for acting so quickly after the procedural decision, that I support, on the previous bill.

Since the government could act so quickly in this case, I wonder why it is not willing to act as rapidly on another bill

moved by our colleague, Senator Marshall, on which there seemed to be an agreement here in the Senate.

If I recall correctly, even the Leader of the Government in the Senate indicated in a previous debate that he supported that bill. So, why is the government not willing to act as quickly on that bill proposed by Senator Marshall than it is on the previous bill proposed by Senator Atkins?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government in the Senate): That is a totally different matter!

[English]

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I think that Senator Molgat deserves a response. We should commend Alan Redway for the fact that not only did he show tenacity in whatever he said as the mover of the bill, but he also fooled the whole House of Commons. They passed a bill that did not have a Royal Recommendation, and they did not even know that they were doing it.

I, too, have no hesitation in supporting the bill, but if it is good for one chamber it should be good for the other chamber also. As a matter of fact, I made the mistake of raising the point of order. I should have let the bill go through and we would have created a precedent. Parliament could then not refuse to accept my bill, S-5. However, it begs the question as to what is occurring around here, and why I am being discriminated against with respect to a proper bill that serves a minority group in Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I move that the bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole presently.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Lynch-Staunton, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lavoie-Roux, that this bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole now.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Senate was accordingly adjourned during pleasure and put into a Committee of the Whole on the motion, the Honourable Senator Nurgitz in the Chair.

Senator Murray: Mr. Chairman, if it is the wish of the committee I will escort my ministerial colleague, Madam Vézina, to her place.

[Translation]

Pursuant to rule 21 of the Rules of the Senate of Canada, the Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister of State (Employ-