

reform. Seniors are demanding decent pensions for their lifetime of work in our society. Instead this government is clawing back at their income security programs and the old age pension. I am pleased to support the bill. The New Democrat caucus is pleased to support the bill. It will solve one of the inequities women in our society face. What we need is real comprehensive pension reform.

I want to congratulate the hon. member for Burlington for the work done over the past three years on this issue. He indicated some surprise at the number of women who contacted him who were in the same situation as the first constituent who contacted him. Also, he indicated some surprise at the lobbying received from women's organizations that contacted him once it became known that he was working on this issue. I would say that that goes to show the power, the advocacy and energy of women in this country once they know that someone is taking up an issue of real concern to them.

I offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Burlington. I am pleased, as he indicated, that the government plans to support this bill and he has the support of all three parties in the House.

Mr. Murray W. Dorin (Edmonton Northwest): Mr. Speaker, I was just going to see if there was another member who wished to speak. I do not want to use all the time. I would be prepared to allow the other member to share the time remaining in this—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Why do you not split it up? You have 15 minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton-Northeast rose first. I am prepared to yield to him. I will take whatever time is left.

[English]

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to the hon. member who said he would speak later that we have an arrangement with other parties to pass this bill to committee. I hope it is not the intention of the hon. member to talk it out.

[Translation]

Mr. Kindy: The hon. member for Burlington need not worry for I support his bill. I think it is a good measure

and I have no intention of killing his bill. I think it is a good bill.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might make a small suggestion to the House which, I think, will solve the problem. We might hear the member for Calgary-Northeast (Mr. Kindy) and, when he finishes his remarks in a few minutes, we would listen to the last member on the conservative side.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In that case I recognize the hon. member for Calgary-Northeast.

Mr. Kindy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I want to congratulate the hon. member for Burlington for introducing this bill which will certainly help women in distress. As the previous speakers so eloquently pointed out, there is a lot of divorced women. Apparently there are half a million divorce cases in Canada. Quite a few women live under the poverty line. This is why I think the bill afford fairer treatment to those who must share pensions.

I wish the situation of people living under the poverty line would improve because it is essential. I would suggest that the government now has a bill which will solve this pension problem. I am sure this legislative measure will be effective and help people who need money.

The hon. member for Burlington was chairman of the committee when I submitted my bill on the referendum and he did not have the courtesy to support it, as I support his bill today. He said then it was not necessary, that we did not need referendums in Canada. I point out to him that a referendum right now in Canada could resolve the constitutional problems Canada is facing.

• (1750)

For this reason, I hope he will grant me the courtesy of supporting my motion on referendum when it comes before the House. So I congratulate him once more. I think Bill C-60 is a excellent piece of legislation and I support it wholeheartedly.

[English]

Mr. Murray W. Dorin (Edmonton Northwest): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate at the outset that after a few brief remarks I intend to allow this bill to move forward to a legislative committee where it can be examined in greater detail.