

For example, I have a copy of a letter which was sent to me. The original letter was sent to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) on November 2, 1982. It states as follows:

I have just received from the Prov. Rentalsman, notification that my rent is being increased by 13 per cent. The cost of rent, utilities, clothing, food, are all allowed to increase substantially. Why then is the federal Government restricting the indexing of our superannuations by a 6 per cent margin? It would appear that those of us who formerly worked for the federal Government are being forced to carry more than our share in an effort to restore a neglected economy.

I would be interested in knowing why the superannuation fund now being used by your Government as a lucrative source of revenue, in that the actual interest earned by this fund is not credited to the fund. You, as our former employers, guaranteed complete indexing, provided that the current employees contributed an additional 1 per cent of their wages to keep the fund viable.

Surely such a positive guarantee should be honoured. How can the Hon. Pierre Trudeau expect us to trust each other when he allows the above situation to become law?

An excellent question, Mr. Speaker. We sent a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and I am very anxious to hear how the Prime Minister answers it. How can he expect us to trust each other when he allows the above situation to become law?

I talked about the cynicism of this Government in introducing Bill C-133. They know it will not reduce inflation. They know it goes against everything which they have paid lip service to in the past—social justice, social equality, indexing of pensions, protecting the poor, the old and the weak. They do it, Mr. Speaker, because they feel they are in political difficulty. They believe that the Canadian public will accept this as some measure of action by the Government to control the economic situation, to bring inflation to the ground. It is all appearance. It is show and tell. It is mirrors and fog, because it will not bring inflation to the ground.

It is so sad that the cynical Government is using the aged, mothers, clerks and other civil servants, people who earn money that is barely enough to pay the rent and the utilities. The Government is using these people in order to project an image of itself as a Government with a definite economic recovery program.

The cynicism of this Government has hit a new low. A number is being done on the Canadian public. We see business pointing the finger at Government for over-spending to satisfy the whims of a pampered public. The Government says that business must share the blame for caving in to exorbitant wage demands. Both are agreed that it is the plain people with their unrealistic expectations who have the most to do with bringing us to where we are today. Both agree on laying the blame for the economic mess we are in on the victims, on the ordinary working Canadians. But ordinary working Canadians do not cause economic disasters; they are the victims. Today they are being victimized by the very people who really are to blame for the economic mess we are all in—the rich and the powerful.

I will join with other Members of the NDP caucus to oppose this legislation, as we opposed Bills C-131, C-132 and C-124. We will argue that other measures must be taken to end the economic anarchy which Canada finds itself in. We will argue that restricting wages and pension benefits will not lead to

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

economic recovery, but rather that the whole Reagan economic theory will only make matters worse. Reaganomics will reduce the spending power of ordinary Canadians, which in turn will reduce economic activities, which in turn will only lead to greater unemployment. The New Democrats will try to present to the Government and to the Canadian public some semblance of sanity. We will argue that it is not the average Canadian that is to be blamed for the economic mess we are in, and we will encourage them to take political action to punish those who are in fact to blame.

● (1650)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom)—Trade—United States subsidization of wheat exports; the Hon. Member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Corbett)—Shipbuilding—Meeting with industry representatives in New Brunswick; the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor)—National Parks—Banff land exchange—Request that housing permit be cancelled. (b) Request for Minister's resignation.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ACT (NO. 2)

MEASURE TO MODIFY BENEFIT INDEX

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray that Bill C-133, an Act to amend the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates: and the amendment thereto of Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton) (p. 21305).

Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated on a number of occasions, as have my colleagues from the Ottawa area and others, that we had difficulty with Bill C-133, that to us the Bill was unacceptable in its form when it was introduced.

I want to start out by repeating my over-all strong support for the six and five program, a support which has been in place since day one. Indeed, I recommended to the Minister a concept along the lines of general restraint to bring the public