

Members have said that that will depend on the Liberal side of the House. If the Liberals support this Bill after what some of them have said about it, that will be a pretty sad thing.

● (1540)

People across the country will not be fooled by the rationalization offered in the speeches by Members of the Government. People take a promise to be a promise and they expect the Government to keep that promise. If the Government wants to change things now it should talk to people who are presently in the civil service and not go behind the backs of those already retired. If this indexation must be reduced, then let the Government reduce it for those people who are working and contributing so that they will know how things stand before they retire. It would be a shame if they took early retirement and then found they did not have enough to live on.

The Minister of Finance and one or two other Members have said that the pensioners are quite happy to do this. Just the other night in a different debate, I told the House about an old aged pensioner who kept his thermometer down low because he was trying to co-operate with the Government. He wanted to do what the Government asked, so he was half freezing. He wore a heavy sweater and his wife wore a kimono because the room they were in was so cold they could not stand it. They said they wanted to co-operate. Of course, they would co-operate to the fullest extent. No retired civil servant should be asked to co-operate with a Government which breaks its contracts or by a Government which breaches the promises it made to him when he was working.

I have received a lot of letters and I wish I had time to read them all, but I shall only read a few excerpts. These letters are from people who need the money, not from people whose incomes are \$50,000 or \$60,000. Undoubtedly some people have quite a bit of money. It may come from an inheritance or luck in gambling or in business—or someone may have married a rich widow! I do not know why they are rich but some people have high incomes, although not as high as Ian Sinclair's which is in the \$600,000 per annum bracket. I suppose some people are well fixed and are quite able to look after themselves, but the vast majority of ordinary, every day people depend on the total pension, including indexing, in order to maintain the standard of living to which they have been accustomed.

A letter that I have in front of me reads in part as follows:

Bill C-133 proposed by your majority Government will not only break this legislated contract but permit actual theft of money held in trust by the Government.

That letter was written to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts), who said the other day that he would not break a contract in order to save a park in Banff. Apparently he agreed in Cabinet to break the contract with our aged, our kids and superannuates, and to cut their allowances. That is pretty sad, Mr. Speaker.

Another pensioner wrote to me from British Columbia as follows:

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

You can tell the Hon. Allan J. MacEachen that we are wary of this Government. I'm sure anyone who has retired from Public Service, Cdn. Forces or RCMP are just as wary as I am.

People are wary all right. I think it is probable that more people who are now contributing will become pretty wary as well. They had better watch what is happening or they might find themselves in this position a few years from now.

The Government claims that it has to get the money. I can offer a few suggestions as to where it could get the money without taking it from the crippled, the aged, the superannuates and the kids. There are a number of other ways and I will list three or four of them. So many times the Government complains that we just vote against everything and do not offer any alternatives. The trouble is that the Government does not listen to the alternatives that we suggest.

One alternative was offered to the Government just the other day by the Hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm) involving \$89,000. If someone on a pension wants to keep a total of the following figures, they will see just how much is involved in my three or four suggestions. Why are we paying \$89,000 to someone to write metric into a sports book? Did any football player ask that yards be changed? Did any baseball player or tennis player ask for this? This \$89,000 is being spent at the whim of the Government in order to incorporate metric into a sports book. I suppose the next thing is that it will be hiring somebody to incorporate metric into the operation of auction marts. That would destroy the whole thing, as the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) has said.

Mr. Hovdebo: They already do that.

Mr. Taylor: The Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) says that they already do that. I am not so sure that they do it in the Province of Alberta but I suppose some places feel that they have to do it. That is the way metric was brought in. People were told that they were going to have to do it and they just might as well agree with it. Then the Government claims to have the agreement of the people. As the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) says, Members of the Government ought to be thrown in jail. It is going to cost \$89,000 to produce this useless, nonsensical, silly book on metric to tell football players that they cannot play in yards any more.

Last year the Metric Commission received \$12 million but this year it will receive \$26 million. Why are we doubling the amount available to the Metric Commission and cutting back on old age pensions? Why are we doubling the amount available to the Metric Commission and taking it off the kids of this country who will not have enough money to buy their books? Why are we taking it away from retired RCMP personnel who risked their lives trying to protect us? We are going to cut their pensions because they can no longer contribute but we are going to double the vote for the Metric Commission.

Do Hon. Members opposite know what is going on? How can they support that kind of thing? The Metric Commission