

given to him today, may I end with another piece of advice. I hope he will have someone who knows something about the difference between good English and legal English write a brochure so that the older people of Canada may know what the bill is all about.

Having offered that faint-hearted goodbye, I may say that as far as we are concerned we are now prepared to have this measure move into the concluding stages in the hope that tomorrow we can get into something more substantial that will help fight inflation.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments made by the hon. member. I do indeed carry on a lot of consultation with the provinces on a consistent basis. The points I made tonight are points of fact which are there for everybody to see. They are not meant as charges but they certainly are meant as valid answers to certain silly accusations made against the government.

As to the hon. member's suggestion for a brochure for the senior citizens, I might say that such a brochure does exist at the present time. It is available and is widely distributed to senior citizens.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** On this bill?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Not on this bill but on the law as it stands now. Obviously there will be an updating and the brochure will be made available to all senior citizens. In that way they will become well acquainted with their rights.

As a matter of fact, the brochure sent out goes much further than just summarizing the bill; it provides an actual table for the various categories and the various levels of income. Just by looking at it anybody can see, is he is in a certain rate of income, what he is entitled to under the old age security and guaranteed income supplement programs. I appreciate the remarks of the hon. member and will make sure that all senior citizens receive such a brochure in the very near future.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to say something before this matter is closed. I have been in this House since January 4, 1973, during which time there have been some committees of the whole. However, I believe this is the first time in that period—indeed it may well be one of the very few times—that this House has had the opportunity of seeing, among those who advise the minister, one of the distinguished lady public servants of Canada. I think it is worthy of note.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker:** This evening, when the last few moments have an air of unanimity, I think it is fitting that we recognize the contribution that has been made and will be made in an increasing way to the public service of Canada by the women who form part of, and work side by side with their fellows in, the public service of their country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, I fully agree with the comment just made by my neighbour, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton. The young lady in question, having had this tribute paid to her,

deserves to have her name recorded in *Hansard*. I, too, salute Miss Norma O'Brien.

**The Deputy Chairman:** The Chair agrees with the hon. member and joins in saluting the lady mentioned.

Shall clause 1 carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

On Clause 3—

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, there are two comments I want to make. At least, I want to make a comment and ask a question about clause 3. I am pleased to see in clause 3 a subclause which says—and one wonders if this will ever happen again—that if the consumer price index goes down, that will not result in the reduction of the pension. That sort of provision has been included in bills ever since the escalation provision came into effect, and it is a good idea to continue it in this case. Of course, if the CPI were to go down, it would have to go back up to its original level before there could be further escalation. It is good to see that point covered.

The other point I wish to deal with by way of a question. I think I understand this but I want it to be clear. My query has to do with the amount of increase that will be received by those on the guaranteed income supplement. To keep it simple, I will talk only about single persons. As I understand it, every single pensioner in receipt of any amount of guaranteed income at present will receive in October an increase of \$9.02. In other words, I understand that this is not a matter of prorating, because the amount of any reduction is based on other income, and this calculation has already been made. In point of fact, whatever the amount of guaranteed income supplement a single person now may be getting, it will go up by \$9.02 in October. Is that correct?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Chairman, that is absolutely correct, and all people on GIS will receive the full amount mentioned by the hon. member.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

On Clause 5—

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Chairman, I should like some clarification with respect to clause 5. I notice that clause 5 permits the Governor in Council to make regulations with respect to the determination of the average of the consumer price index. I wonder if the minister could explain this and tell us how this procedure is to work, and what is contemplated in this provision.

**Mr. Lalonde:** This has only to do with the rounding out of figures when we are dealing with infinitesimal fractions. That is the purpose of the regulations.

**Mr. Alexander:** Is this a case of rounding out figures where many decimal points might be involved? Is that what the minister is saying?