

must change their name or they cannot have a charter to conduct the business of their association any longer.

I suppose they could do something simple which probably even this Liberal government could understand. I suppose they could change their name to the "Long Service Pensioners Association, Formerly the Canadian Forces Long Service Pensioners Association", but I think the members of the forces would say that this is so chicken that a person hates to talk about it. However, this has come up, and I think it would be wise, proper and appropriate if the government were to back off. If these pensioners are still willing to allow their names to be associated with this government, the government ought to be thankful for it, instead of vice versa.

The Canadian Forces Long Service Pensioners Association has been operating from its headquarters in London. I went there to speak with members of the association a few months ago and to see what their problems were. We had a very interesting meeting, and I suggested that they might be better off if they gave up trying to get the government to account for the \$7.5 billion which is in the fund and which should belong to the pensioners instead of the government. Perhaps the best thing to do would be to start a funded fund for their pensions. They would have to face the loss of what is in their pension fund, \$7.5 billion, which I do not think the government will ever acknowledge.

I do not think the government will give those pensioners any more than it absolutely has to give. I do not want to make invidious comparisons and compare anyone to this government, but the members of the association were willing to go to the extent of forgetting all about this \$7.5 billion if they could have a government guarantee that they could continue under the present system for a given period of time, say ten or 15 years, and have the extra interest which is not needed to pay into their fund to keep it even. Let us remember that the interest itself pays in \$24 million a year more than is needed for the pensions and the indexation.

However, we must also remember the amount the serviceman pays in and the government pays in. If that could be done for ten or 15 years and if there could be a funded fund, which is the honourable way, the association would be quite happy to forget about the \$7.5 billion already put into the fund on their account, which the government will not recognize. I think that might be the way out. The serviceman certainly does not want anyone to think that he is beholden to the taxpayer or to the government at this time for something to which he is not entitled. The impression which is being created by the government across this country is that servicemen are lamprey eels on the big fish, the government payroll. This is not so. They put in sufficient money to pay their pensions and their indexation, and they are entitled to a better and fairer deal than they have been getting. With that I will conclude, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Fernand E. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who rose before me spoke mainly, and I understand that since he is the official critic on national defence for the

Pensions

Progressive Conservative party, of the personnel in the armed forces, present, past and future. I appreciate his interest in those classes of individuals who are also very important to us. But, if you examine the title of the bill, you will see that it applies to a much wider variety of people than the personnel in the armed forces. The title of the bill reads as follows:

the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act . . .

which applies to all those who fall under the bill.

. . . the Public Service Superannuation Act . . .

which includes perhaps 200,000 or 300,000 employees.

. . . the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act . . .

which the hon. member has just explained.

. . . the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act . . .

which includes a good many individuals.

. . . and the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act.

Hon. members here, of course, are directly concerned by this bill since it also affects the retiring allowances of hon. members who for one reason or another retire from politics or who will be defeated in the next election which will certainly take place in 1979. I think I can assure the population that an election will be held in 1979.

So when we examine the purpose of the bill we find that it is rather simple but it does have technical aspects where we need consultants and most of all actuaries to help us figure out what is good and valid in this bill. And it seems, according to the speeches I have heard, that opposition parties agree to proceed as soon as possible with the consideration of the bill in committee. Of course we will have to call on experts to enlighten us further and advise us in the consideration of a bill which has many technical aspects.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

● (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION—
COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM—SIGNING OF AGREEMENT
WITH ONTARIO

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I raised with the minister responsible for CMHC, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet), the question of the community services program. This program was announced last spring and was supposed to come into effect in 1978. But