

2. Were representatives of contributor and annuitant organizations consulted on the economic assumptions used in the actuarial valuations of these accounts, and, if not, (i) why not (ii) does the government plan to change its future practice in this regard and if not, why not?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Cooper: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Gilles Loiseleur (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)) moved that Bill C-29, an act respecting compensation in the public sector of Canada and to amend another act in relation thereto be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee F.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the bill that is before the House today has two purposes. In the first instance, it seeks to end strikes in the public services that are seriously disrupting essential services to Canadians and damaging important sectors of the Canadian economy.

More broadly, it implements the terms of the Public Sector Compensation Restraint Program that the Minister of Finance announced in his budget on February 26, 1991.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset let me address an issue that has an important bearing on this bill. The Public Service Staff Relations Board stated yesterday that the government has not made every reasonable effort within the meaning of section 51 of the Public Service Staff Relations Act to negotiate a collective agreement with the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Government Orders

I am of the view that all our negotiations with the unions have complied with the law. The PSSRB's decision on the PSAC negotiations surprised me, since we have been able to reach settlements with four other unions that are within the government's announced wage policy.

In the case of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, we have had 60 days of negotiating sessions and we have gone through another 30 days of conciliation proceedings. Nevertheless, in order to make absolutely certain that we respect yesterday's PSSRB ruling, I have instructed my officials to indicate to Mr. Bean that they are willing to return to the bargaining table without preconditions.

With respect to the issue of a wage increase, this government remains irrevocably committed to the zero, three formula included in Bill C-29.

Let it be clearly understood that there shall be no wage increase this year, and the wage increase next year will be 3 per cent.

These offers are of course very limited and I understand frustrating, but let me remind the members again of what we saw yesterday in les Ateliers Angus in Montreal where 900 people were laid off. This is the cruel reality we have to live with.

[Translation]

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we must go ahead with this bill. We cannot afford to wait until collective bargaining resumes.

The Public Sector Compensation Act provides that non-monetary proposals may be negotiated this year. Consequently, I have asked my agents to invite Mr. Bean's negotiators back to the bargaining table.

Mr. Speaker, the government must deal with the problems caused by the general strike called by the leaders of PSAC, a strike that jeopardizes the provision of essential services to Canadians and that is disrupting certain key sectors of our economy.

Grain terminals can no longer handle this year's harvest. Businesses say lay-offs are imminent because of delivery delays. On the picket lines, Canadians have seen strikers use violence and try to intimidate employees who want to work and have a right to work, and who in some cases were legally obliged to work.

By use of these tactics, the union has managed to close down federal buildings and deprive Canadians of certain