

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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[English]

### MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

**Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

#### PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION ACT

##### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (for the President of the Treasury Board)** moved that Bill C-55, an act to amend certain acts in relation to pensions and to enact the Special Retirement Arrangements Act and the Pension Benefits Division Act, be read the third time and passed.

• (1530)

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to open debate on third reading of Bill C-55, an act to amend certain acts in relation to pensions and to enact the Special Retirement Arrangements Act and the Pension Benefits Division Act now that the legislative committee has completed its study and reported its findings to this House.

First I would like to thank the member for Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold who chaired the legislative committee and the hon. members who studied the bill very closely. Second, I would like to express appreciation to the witnesses who took time to appear before the committee to make their views known.

As a result of the committee's thorough and thoughtful work, a number of amendments have been made to

#### *Government Orders*

the bill and I am pleased to note that these clarify and strengthen the intended effects of the proposed changes in the pension programs.

All members will recall that the President of the Treasury Board has already described Bill C-55 as an important step in the evolution of the various pension plans in the federal Public Service. It is a bill that makes a number of improvements to the plans, thereby responding to some of the long-standing concerns of the plan members.

It fulfils the government's commitment to ensure that its pension plans, like all other employer-sponsored pension plans in Canada, comply with the new Income Tax Act rules for registered pension plans and it moves to improve the funding and the financing of the benefits provided under the pension plans.

Bill C-55 is a relatively complex bill in that it proposes amendments to the existing pension statutes, provides for details of some program improvements to be established by regulation and enacts two new statutes.

The principal statutes the bill would amend are the Public Service Superannuation Act, the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act, the RCMP Superannuation Act and the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act. The new statutes that would be enacted by Bill C-55 are the Special Retirement Arrangements Act and the Pension Benefits Division Act.

I would like to take a few minutes to remind all members of the various fairness proposals and improvements contained in Bill C-55.

First, the Public Service Superannuation Act would be amended to provide pension coverage for part-time employees who work more than 12 hours a week. Coverage for existing part-time employees would be optional but it would be compulsory for employees engaged on a part-time basis in the future.

In addition, employees could choose to buy back periods of part-time service up to and including January 1, 1981. While providing all employees with increased flexibility to balance work and family responsibilities and still continue to accrue pension benefits, this proposal is expected to be particularly helpful to women, since they are most often the ones who decide to work on a part-time basis while their children are small.