

dians who are thinking about the future, who are thinking about tomorrow. We should have a lot of time for people like that.

When Bill C-52 goes before the committee those are the kinds of issues we should be addressing. These people are not crackpots. These are solid Canadian citizens with legitimate concerns. They are not greedy. They are not self-centred. They just want to conduct their lives in a very responsible way. Of course, and it is understandable, they do not want to see their standard of living decrease. All they have to do is look around and see the cost of living, inflation and the rise in taxes. The cost of living is going up all the time. It is a legitimate concern they have.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, just a comment on the reference that the hon. member for Winnipeg—St. James made to the way in which the government is breaking the deal which was implicitly struck with many pensioners who retired with a certain understanding of what would be available to them when they retired, whether it was in the way of RRSP options, or for that matter the OAS.

I rise to comment on this because I recall when the Conservatives were in opposition they made a very big deal out of any actions by the Liberal government of that day which, in their judgment, were seen to be unilateral changes in what they understood to be agreements between the business community and the government.

• (1250)

I remember a great many Conservative members of Parliament being exceedingly indignant about the fact that the Liberal government of the day would abrogate certain tax agreements or other agreements that might be in place. This was regarded as a heinous crime by the opposition Conservatives at that time. Yet, in government, they seem to have no qualms whatever about breaking unilaterally longstanding agreements, longstanding understandings, that have existed between Canadian citizens and the government with respect to old age pensions, with respect to RRSPs, with respect to unemployment insurance, with respect to federal support for health care and post-secondary education—with respect to any number of things that affect the lives of

average Canadians. This government has had no qualms in acting unilaterally to violate longstanding agreements between the Canadian people and their government.

I find it hypocritical in the extreme that the government members should be so willing to do this while not so long ago they made a career out of criticizing unilateral government action.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bird): Do I have unanimous consent to call it one o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bird): It being 1 p.m., I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 12.51 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. 0. 31

[*English*]

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiaq): Mr. Speaker, today another American cruise missile is being tested in the Canadian north. Northerners have repeatedly expressed their opposition to this testing. We protest again today.

Northern opposition to these tests is long standing and consistent. Both the legislatures of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories have passed resolutions opposing continued cruise missile testing over northern lands, waters and communities.

A growing number of Canadians view the continued testing of these missiles in this country as being inconsistent with recent improvements in the climate of international peace and security.

Positive developments in central and eastern Europe have opened up opportunities for western peace initiatives. Canada can make a valuable contribution to steadily improving east-west relations by rejecting further cruise missile testing over our north.