

all that by regulation, without going before Parliament or submitting to committee scrutiny.

Is the government aware of the devastating impact Bill C-55 will have if it keeps supporting these clauses in the bill? Is it prepared to withdraw these clauses, at the very least?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member should have asked me a few questions about this matter privately, instead of believing every thing he read in a press release by PSAC, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which appears to be particularly keen on drawing our attention to problems that are non-existent, since the government has no intention of doing what the hon. member just said. PSAC is now appearing before the Labour Relations Board because of its actions during the strike. Understandably, they would like the public to believe all this, but the government has no intention of doing what the hon. member said.

In fact, when I tabled Bill C-55, I announced in the House that any problems concerning financing, indexation, and so forth, would be examined with the unions at the appropriate time. The purpose of Bill C-55 is to bring pension legislation into line with the Income Tax Act.

[*English*]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Madam Speaker, Bill C-55 is a sugar-coated poison pill.

• (1440)

In 1984 the minister said: "Have confidence we will not do it". Why put it in the bill if they are not going to use it? They promised they would never deindex Public Service pensions and today they are proposing exactly that.

Bill C-55 could be used together with the Income Tax Act to deindex the Public Service pensions of Canada.

To use the words of a union leader this morning: Why is the government using such sneaky and sleazy methods by giving itself the power to change pensions by regula-

tions rather than coming before Parliament for public scrutiny and legislative approval?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, I suppose that the hon. member, being from the Ottawa region, pays great attention to statements that are made by the unions. With respect to the truth, I will be appearing in front of the House committee tomorrow to discuss Bill C-55. It does nothing of the sort that the hon. member has indicated.

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Youth.

Almost every year for the last 10 years the Challenge program in support of summer employment for students has been announced in February. It has not yet been announced by the minister, although he has his press release half prepared.

Will the minister confirm that in fact his shyness with respect to the Challenge program is because the funds will be frozen once more as they were last year in spite of rising unemployment rates among students?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, since my hon. colleague seems to be well informed in the sense that I have a half prepared press release, it is a good reason for me not to release it.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, I am sure that the students across this country are going to be very much amused by the minister's facetiousness.

I ask him once more to let the students across this country, whose unemployment rate is 15 per cent, know this weekend whether there are any serious prospects for them having jobs.