

*Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)*

have a majority of Members of this House on record as favouring taking a contract which was duly signed by both parties with the clear understanding of both groups, tossing it out of the window and just saying, "That is fine; we don't care about a contract we have with thousands of Canadians".

May I suggest, in my humble way, that perhaps that is some small reason why people in Canada are losing faith in their elected representatives when they hear that incredible hypocrisy.

**Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, am pleased to be able to participate in this debate in which the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) has put forward an amendment to Bill C-133, the piece of legislation which is to put a cap on the amount of indexing for the retired public employees who have paid for the luxury of making sure that their pensions were indexed to the rate of the Consumer Price Index, so that their meagre pensions, in many instances, would not be eaten up by the ravages of inflation.

What the amendment by the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier has done is to put forward that this Government will not extend this Bill C-133 past December 31, 1984. I admire the backbenchers and some Members of the Liberal caucus who have opposed Bill C-133, because I think it is a flagrant abuse of the Government's power in betraying the trust of the many public employees who depended on and in fact paid for their pensions that they expected to receive, because of the good faith they had in this Government.

Furthermore, I find it strange that a Member in the Liberal Party would need to put forward such an amendment. It shows to me a lack of trust, even from within the Liberal Party, that one of their Members would have to go as far as to say that he wants assurances in Bill C-133 that it will not go beyond the deadline of December 31, 1984. In fact, it was through some pressure by backbench Liberal Members that the six and five program was modified in Bill C-133 for the retired public employees. In fact, they have been given a concession. It is not really a concession at all, but is viewed as a concession by the Liberal Government in that their capping will not be six and five, as will be applied to the Family Allowance indexing and the old age pension indexing, but in Bill C-133 for the retired public employees it has been raised to 6.5 per cent for the first year and 5.5 per cent for the second year.

No matter how you look at it, I do not think we in this Party can support such a piece of legislation, and I would urge Members of the Conservative caucus and also Members of the Liberal Party to oppose this Bill when it is voted upon later today.

I support the amendment of the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier because I think this program should not only not be in existence but if it does pass, it certainly should terminate when the Government says it will terminate, and I feel it is important to have that set out in this piece of legislation.

We have seen how this Government has been abusive of people's rights in other areas, such as the capping of indexing on the Family Allowance payments before that legislation has actually gone through this Parliament. I was speaking to a

group last week and I thought it appropriate to state that our political system in Canada has participatory democracy on election day and maybe during election campaigns, but between election campaigns we have a system of almost totalitarianism or a dictatorship regime, because that Government over there is without the checks and balances of a Senate, because we have such a partisan, pork-barrel of a Senate in the other place that they do not put any checks and balances in there, and they are virtually useless. If that were a regionally elected Senate, I do not think we would see things like this happening within our system in Canada, and it would go a long way toward protecting democracy in this country if, in fact, we had checks and balances beyond this House of Commons. In the past I favoured abolition of the Senate, but I am changing my mind somewhat to support a regionally-elected Senate so that this Government cannot put through or abuse pieces of legislation, which it has no right to do. Seemingly no one in this country can do anything about that.

• (1710)

**An Hon. Member:** Abolition of the Liberals.

**Mr. Anguish:** My colleague says abolition of the Liberals would be one answer to the problem. We could then start on the road to recover economically and reform the political system in Canada, which over the years has become so archaic.

I would like to make a few more comments in the brief time that I have remaining. We only have ten minutes each in this debate. I would like to talk about the whole pension system in Canada, something we have fought for long and hard to bring into place and to preserve.

In a relatively short period of time, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and other Members of this House have worked hard and tirelessly for the rights of Canadians to have a retirement pension in order that they could maintain a decent standard of living and have some respect in their retirement years. Whether or not they have had the fortune of contributing to a public or private pension program, many of them worked for years for small remuneration. Some women worked long and hard to raise families and take care of farms and family households and received no income. Recognizing that each and every Canadian has made a significant contribution to our society, they should have the privilege of receiving some kind of pension in their retirement years.

In Canada we have an evolving state. The pension program has progressed considerably over the years from the early thirties up until the present time. We now find an erosion or setback in our pension system in Canada. Certainly the Government, whether it is an NDP, Liberal or Conservative Government, has some responsibility as to whether a country has a high rate of inflation. Certainly the major control to influence that comes from the Government.

If we have to contend with inflation as a result of a Government which cannot deal with the problem, whether it is beyond