

be paid out of it. The contributions that have been made by members of the public service, or by the treasury, have not hitherto been quite adequate to meet the charges on the fund, but these charges were decreed by parliament.

Mr. MORE: Is it considered that the scheme should be funded completely? It is not necessary to fund that completely, is it?

Mr. FLEMING (*Eglinton*): No, if you are thinking in terms of the assurance of the annual provision of these benefits, it is not necessarily in the strict sense of the word. On the other hand, if you are to adhere strictly to the principles of actuarial sufficiency, then your fund is lacking these two sums that were referred to earlier. But, as long as the country is solvent, and as long as parliament is well disposed in respect to superannuation, as I am sure it always will, then any deficiency is not going to be reflected in any reduction in the benefits paid made year by year.

Since this legislation became effective parliament has always attached very high importance to the superannuation principle for members of the public service. I think hon. members will agree, Mr. Chairman, that this has been one of the major elements in making a career in public service attractive and challenging. In my experience I have found that very great importance is attached to superannuation by those individuals who choose to make a career in the public service. This is a very important element in assuring continuity of service in the public service, and assuring to the government and the public the benefit of the experience that is gathered over long years by those who make a career of public service.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Mr. Chairman, the new proposal, as I understand, for the formula based on the best six years average salary will bring this basic formula in line with the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act. Would the Minister like to say whether he thinks there is advantage in the achievement of that uniformity?

Mr. FLEMING (*Eglinton*): Undoubtedly, Mr. Chairman, there is advantage in the uniformity that has been achieved in this respect because, as long as the basis of calculation of benefits has differed, there has, I think, been a sense of injustice on the part of the civil service. They had not been as generously dealt with as the armed forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Parliament did deal with the pensions of the armed forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police last year, and now we are, I think, equating the position of the civil service, with their brothers in the armed forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): This will avoid the hodge podge of which the minister spoke earlier?

Mr. FLEMING (*Eglinton*): It will go a long way toward doing that. There are some elements in the former hodge podge that will continue during the lifetime of some of the persons who were affected by it, but this present measure will have a major effect in eliminating the hodge podge that has been, I think, a besetting difficulty in this whole area of public responsibility.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Ultimately that hodge podge will disappear?

Mr. FLEMING (*Eglinton*): Yes.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): Could the minister tell us, for the record, how many civil servants are contributors to this fund at the present time?

Mr. TAYLOR: About 165,000.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): 165,000 persons?

Mr. FLEMING (*Eglinton*): The number is about 165,000.