

retired Members of Parliament, retired Governors General and retired judges, will result in the other groups being remembered as well. I mention particularly, because they come under the aegis of the government, the retired employees of Canadian National Railways.

• (5:10 p.m.)

I welcome the fact that a few days ago a motion of reference was made so that the Committee on Transport and Communications will have the CNR pension plan under its consideration. I hope that as a result of that study, a parallel plan can be produced soon enough so that the same date of April 1, 1970, will apply to retired employees of the CNR. There are others, particularly those in private industry, who deserve this increase as much, but bearing in mind that many provincial governments, jurisdictions, and private employers have taken the step, I hope that what the federal government is now doing will lay it down as a rule which all employers should follow, and that includes the CPR and all other private employers.

It just does not make sense in any kind of civilized society to say that once people have retired their pensions should stay at the same level for the rest of their lives. I am concerned, not just about the rise in the cost of living with which retired people have to cope, but about the fact that they should be entitled to share in the increased standard of living. What we are agreeing to by this arrangement is that people who are retired have their right to share in an on-going society. I am glad the government is taking this step with respect to those who come under its purview, and I hope others will do likewise.

I have one further word, and that is to express the hope that now that we are taking this step, I hope the government will do the same thing with respect to the old age security pension. Apparently we did not have to wait for the white paper to do this. I urge that old age pensions be increased in the same way, without further delay.

However, I see Your Honour is becoming anxious, and I do not blame you. But I have battled for a quarter of a century for the day when I could welcome the announcement that has now been made. I do so, and in the name of many superannuates and their widows who will be grateful tonight, I say to the government, "The same to you; a very Merry Christmas".

Air Transport Dispute

TRANSPORT

TUGBOATS—TABLING OF SAFETY REGULATIONS

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, earlier today, for reasons that were outlined to the House leaders, it became necessary for me, in order to accommodate a group of tugboat employees who were in Ottawa, to make a statement with regard to safety regulations in the form of a press release. Normally I would have done this in the House, but as was outlined at the time it was necessary because of the timing to do it in this fashion. I am now taking advantage of the first opportunity to table copies of this release in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to an order made earlier this afternoon, it is understood that the House will reconvene at 8 p.m. today. I would like to suggest to hon. members that if they are wondering how the intervening hours might be employed, I will be in attendance in Room 16 and I would be very grateful if hon. members accepted my invitation to spend a few moments with me. This invitation is extended, of course, to members of the press and to our staff.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 5.15 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

AIR TRANSPORT

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BY TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to inform the House that the government has received official advice from the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association that their membership has ratified the terms of settlement as outlined in the memorandum of agreement between the government and the association which was signed last Wednesday, and that they are prepared to execute the collective agreement as soon as practicable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Drury: I expect that this will take place late Monday afternoon, December 22. I am also pleased to be able to say that a