

(d) Other Projects. Other projects could not be accepted until the DIP Program funding was increased. Based on the approved levels of funding at May 26, 1980, the entire 1980/81 budget was required for legal contractual commitments in hand.

CONVERSION OF GOLF COURSES TO METRIC MEASUREMENT

Question No. 4,528—**Mr. Thomson:**

Were nine clinics, run by a Mr. Dan Halldorson and supporting the conversion of golf courses to metric measurement, paid for by the Metric Commission and, if so, what was the cost to the taxpayers?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The total cost of the nine clinics run by Mr. Dan Halldorson was \$55,000, \$35,000 of which was paid by the Metric Commission and the remaining \$20,000 paid by the private sector.

[English]

Mr. Smith: I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motion be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1530)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ACT (NO. 2)

MEASURE TO MODIFY BENEFIT INDEX

The House resumed from Tuesday, December 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray that Bill C-133, an Act to amend the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton) (p. 21305).

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on Bill C-133 today. By way of opening, let me read from two letters from constituents that I received in today's mail concerning the Bill. In the last two weeks all of us have received dozens of letters from retired civil servants, Armed Forces personnel and members of the RCMP, seeking our assistance as Members of Parliament to stop Bill C-133. Some of these letters have been read in the speeches of Members of all Parties this week. Let me read from one written by a retired civil servant in Winnipeg who writes:

Dear Member of Parliament . . . It's not too late!!!!!!

Be fair to the Public Service Pensioners.

In good faith over many years of employment a sur-charge deduction was made from our pay cheques to cover any increase in the cost of living. This was supposed to be reflected on our pension cheques.

Now with no thought to the dedicated years of service of thousands and the foregoing understanding, —with one swift axe—GONE!!!!

This will not only effect next years cheques but snowballs for years to come.

Please Mr. M.P.—RECONSIDER—Do a little soul searching and give the pensioner his just return.

Let me read from the second letter written by a person in Selkirk who retired from the Armed Forces after 29 years of service, part of it during the last war. He writes as follows:

Two years ago I received notification that in 1983 my pension would be adjusted upward. I was happy to hear this because it meant that I would finally get a monthly cheque that would more realistically compensate me for my long years of service to my country.

If Bill C-133 is allowed to pass, I and many others like me will feel that our country has let us down.

Please, USE EVERY MEANS AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO STOP BILL C-133 and help preserve the rights and dignity of those who served.

I am glad to have this opportunity to put on record my opposition to what I consider to be an offensive piece of legislation. Bill C-133, as we all know, is part of the Government's six and five con job and will limit pensions of federal public servants to 6 per cent next year and 5 per cent in 1984.

On Monday night, the President of Treasury Board (Mr. Gray), no doubt hoping to quell a backbench revolt in his caucus, proposed an amendment to cap these pensions at 6.5 and 5.5 per cent. This six and a bit and five and a bit amendment does not alter the fact that the Government has a commitment to continue full indexation of public servants' pensions.

Bill C-133 is different from the rest of the six and five program. In this case it is not the Government's own money that it is tinkering with. The pensions are paid out of a fund established by matching contributions from employees and the Government and its agencies. This fund belongs to the pensioner, not to the Government.

Bill C-133 is unique in the Government's six and five program because it is an act of outright robbery made legal by an Act of Parliament. Federal public servants have paid for their pensions out of their own pockets. They contributed 6.5