

the six and five program. All these actions change what we had come to expect would occur, and in some cases modifies existing arrangements. To some degree, implied or actual commitments have been changed in all of these cases. None of us is pleased that such measures have been necessary. They can only be justified by the depth of the overriding national economic crisis, and the broadly accepted urgent need to assist those suffering most from the recession and to pursue fiscal restraint to promote economic recovery.

If our pension plan is not fully funded, if pensioners under the plan are indeed being partially funded out of general revenue with regard to indexation, is it realistic to expect that such funding can be excluded from the over-all restraint plan? Is it realistic to expect the representatives of the people from other parts of Canada to support our appeal for exclusion from the restraint program? With all honesty, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I do not believe so.

Where do we stand now? Given the information provided above, could we have expected Bill C-133 to be withdrawn? I think not. But we can try to achieve certain other objectives. Specifically, we can attempt to ensure that only the portion of indexing paid by taxpayers' funds is subjected to restraint. Moneys flowing from the contributions and earnings should not be subjected to restraint, and Mr. Gray has agreed to amendments which would include that principle. More important, we can demand that the plan be put on a sound basis once and for all to prevent future political incursions. Mr. Gray, today, has agreed to seek—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member. He still has a minute left. But I should remind him that he should refer to his colleagues in the House either by their portfolio or the name of their riding.

Mr. Evans: Thank you. I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I should have said the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray). As indicated earlier, the six and five program is terribly important to the economic recovery program of the nation, if only because it has provided a concrete basis for the establishment of a national consensus for Government action. My caucus colleagues are of the strong opinion that no exception can be made to the principles of that program. Within the context of six and five, I have fought the case of Public Service pensioners, but I could not win the day since my appeals violated my colleagues' perception of what was fair and necessary in the national interest. My colleagues are willing to see modifications to Bill C-133 in this context, and are prepared to support my demand for modifications to put the plan on a sound footing and remove the possibility for future political manipulation. But to receive support in this effort it is incumbent upon me to provide support for the over-all six and five program. I cannot expect other Members to deal fairly with my appeals if, when all the facts are in, I am not prepared to accept the facts and support the results.

If I could have one more minute, Mr. Speaker, I would like to put forward the proposals—

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I must inform the Hon. Member that his time is up. He may only continue with the unanimous consent of the House.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): There is not unanimous consent. Is the Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker) rising to question the Hon. Member?

Mr. Parker: Yes, I have a question for the Hon. Member. He has mentioned that he would like to see the pension on a sound basis. He has also mentioned the possibility of the principle of the six and five. I would like to ask the Hon. Member what his views are on the Government's policy of not consulting with the advisory committee of the pension group, not consulting with the unions involved, not consulting with the pensioners' groups before this action was taken. Does he agree with that process?

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, since the proposal was brought in as part of the six and five program, which was part of a budget, I absolutely agree with it. There is no way that a Minister of the Crown proposing a budget can discuss budgetary proposals in advance, and that Party would be the first one to condemn the Government for violation of budget secrecy, if the Minister intended to do so. In addition, the Hon. Member's question referred to proposals, so I would like to put on the record exactly what those proposals are.

First of all, I am calling for an integration of the two funds currently comprising the pension plan. Second, a conversion of these plans to "Fully-funded/excess-interest" system of inflation protection, with the necessary modifications to contribution rates, the provisions for dealing with existing unfunded liability and the rates of interest which are paid on those account balances. Third, the establishment of an independent representative third-party body to act as a board of trustees empowered to oversee and administer the major features of the plan, to include pensioners, employees as well as the employer. I would ask that the Minister consider these modifications at the earliest possible date, and that these be brought forward for implementation no later than January 1, 1985, when full indexation is to be restored.

Mr. Parker: My supplementary is to the same Hon. Member. Is he aware that the business sector was contacted and a chairman was selected to expound on the six and five program to the business sector, and yet the Government did not see fit prior to its budget to consult with the workers or the pensioners involved in the program. I see a little bit of contradiction here, and I wonder if his executive people have given him the answer to that one also?

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, I do not need any help answering any questions from that Hon. Member. The fact is that no one was notified or indicated what was in the budget prior to budget night. After the budget, certainly an advisory committee on six and five was established, but that was done after the