

Earlier in the proceedings the Chair ruled that an affirmative vote for the motion which has been deferred would deal with the motion standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker). Therefore, at this stage the Chair will proceed to the motion in the name of the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier)** moved:

Motion No. 4.

That Bill C-133, An Act to amend the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2), be amended by adding immediately after Clause 2 at page 2, the following new Clause:

"3. This Act expires on December 31, 1984."

He said: Mr. Speaker, Motion No. 4 which you have just read proposes the following, and I quote:

"3. This Act expires on December 31, 1984."

The purpose of this motion is to establish without a doubt that Bill C-133 will expire on December 31, 1984.

In English this is called a sunset clause, an expression that is rather difficult to render in French, but I suppose it could be called an expiry clause or perhaps a twilight clause or a limited duration clause. I have been seeking advice on this matter, but there is no real agreement on the best translation. In any case, the purpose of my motion, Mr. Speaker, is to have this legislation repealed as of December 31, 1984, and since the bill itself does not contain any clauses limiting its duration, I think putting this motion does not raise more problems than it solves. Furthermore, other Members in this House have often put similar motions for other bills. I would have preferred to see Bill C-133 withdrawn, but since it will be passed, we must try and make the best of a bad thing.

We do not know what the future holds in store, Mr. Speaker. In politics as in so many other areas, the saying: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, is very apt. Adding to Bill C-133 a clause that it will expire on December 31, 1984 will show the legislator is acting in good faith by putting a two-year limit on this government policy. It also provides the assurance that neither politics nor the results of a possible election will prolong the effects of Bill C-133. Who knows, Mr. Speaker, who will be in power on December 31, 1984? I certainly do not.

Public servants have been told that there was nothing in writing on the indexing of their pensions. That is true. Because of exceptional circumstances, they have had to rely on the Government to manage the Superannuation Fund in the interest of present and future public service pensioners. It is also true that fifteen years ago, there was no public service union powerful enough to demand a more active role in the management of the Public Service Superannuation Fund.

If Bill C-133 is passed without amendment, public servants may be expected to demand an active role in the administration of their superannuation fund to protect themselves against their employer.

*Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)*

Legally, the Crown can impose the 6.5 and 5.5 per cent ceiling on public service pensions, there is no doubt about that. However, Mr. Speaker, it is another thing altogether, and not much can be said in its defence, when we realize that the employer, Treasury Board, can restrict and even defend such measures without breaking its word or infringing existing agreements. I find all this compromising, to say the least, and very damaging to employer-employee relations. It will probably take some time before a minimum of trust has been restored between present and future retired public servants and the employer, that is, Treasury Board.

That is why I am suggesting this modest step towards a reconciliation. Let us restrict the effect of this bill to two years and immediately start genuine consultations with the unions, and let everyone know that the legislator will keep his word. Let us amend Bill C-133, Mr. Speaker, to have it expire on December 31, 1984.

On the subject of consultation, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read to you a passage from *Hansard* of December 6, 1982, page 21301, and I am quoting the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray):

Let me assure everyone that there will be full opportunity for consultation before any changes are decided upon and any proposals made to Parliament concerning the superannuation plans of federal Public Service employees.

By adopting motion No. 4, the Government will restore its credibility vis-à-vis federal public servants and particularly the retired members of the Public Service of Canada. In addition, Mr. Speaker, this amendment would reaffirm the Government's confidence in a 6 and 5 program aimed at bringing down inflation and promoting economic recovery. The motion would also confirm statements by certain ministers, especially the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) who indicated in his budget speech that the 6 and 5 program would be restricted to the next twenty-four months.

• (1210)

[*English*]

As a result of what has been said over the past weeks and months about indexing of public servants' pensions, I think it is quite clear that the tide of mistrust and suspicion that I see making its way across the Public Service cannot be stemmed by words promising a different tomorrow.

I find that pensioners are extremely skeptical over Government claims that the restrictions contained in Bill C-133 are temporary when the Bill provides that the restrictions to be implemented in 1983 and 1984 are also to apply after 1984. I repeat, the restrictions are to apply after 1984. Some pensioners also liken Bill C-133 to the camel in the proverb about the camel and the tent.

There is concern among some pensioners that C-133 is the first stage of a program that will lead to an ad hoc dismantling