

public servants and save them from hardship; rather, they were born out of an effort to save this government.

I will not add anything further. I hope we can proceed through second reading quickly and then give clause by clause consideration to this bill.

**Mr. Hugh Poulin (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to rise after my friend, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), has spoken as I, too, support the changes the government has introduced. On behalf of the people of this community, and of public servants, may I say that I support the changes brought in by the government for the benefit of public servants, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCM Police and others.

**Mr. Nielsen:** You would be in trouble if you did not.

**Mr. Poulin:** I think I am voicing the opinion of all members of parliament representing constituencies in the national capital area when I say that we all support this overdue increase which is to accrue to those who have worked in the public service as well as other areas mentioned in the bill, and who have retired. Although the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton who preceded me did not say this, I can say that the minister who introduced this measure deserves full credit for the decisive action he has taken. It will be of benefit to many in this community, and to many others across the country. To my knowledge, public servants look on the minister as a leader that they like. They are extremely happy with the manner in which he is acting in his capacity as President of the Treasury Board.

**Mr. Baker:** You don't read your mail, Hughie.

**Mr. Poulin:** I hear an hon. member saying, "You don't read your mail, Hughie." I read it every day. I am one of the members representing a constituency in the national capital area who, together with the hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Gauthier), has lived here all his life. I have been here all my life. I have known people who are now public servants at all levels all their lives. I have known public servants occupying the lowest, if you like, and the highest ranks ever since their boyhood. I grew up and went to school with some of them. I deal with them day by day; and although they complain to me about other things, they say that they are happy about this legislation. They are content and, indeed, proud of the work they are doing from day to day for this community and on behalf of the people of Canada.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Their happiness shows up in leaked documents, too.

**Mr. Poulin:** The members of the public service with whom I have had the privilege of coming into contact since becoming a member of parliament have been most courteous, effective and helpful in dealing with the problems of my constituents. It is because of their good services and exceptional work that it is said all over the world that the public service of Canada is one of the finest in the world.

I am pleased also at the recognition this bill gives to the needs of others. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces

### *Supplementary Retirement Benefits*

have rendered a great service to Canada, and retired members of the force are to receive supplementary retirement benefits under the act. The bill also applies to members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who perform an extremely fine function in the country. In the last few days, together with the security personnel of the House of Commons, they did something which entailed a great physical risk when they acted on the occasion of the unwarranted attack upon people in the House of Commons last Tuesday or last Wednesday—I forget which day it was. They did an exceptionally fine job and were, as I said, ably assisted by the parliamentary security force, which also did exceptionally good work at a difficult time. They handled the people concerned with as little fuss as possible and are to be commended.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Whom have you left out?

**Mr. Poulin:** I hear a voice coming from the other side of the chamber. The rudeness of that voice is becoming more and more apparent in this House and in the committees of this House. I will ignore it. It will not go away of its own volition, although it may be taken away from here in a short time by the volition of others.

**Mr. Nielsen:** There is an expert talking.

● (1450)

**Mr. Poulin:** The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton also referred to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. Although I did not hear his speech, I am sure his remarks were very constructive and informative. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton accused him of being in concert with his party. He, in some ways, thinks it is bad or an evil thing to do that. I remind the hon. member that we on this side, and sometimes they on the other side, attempt to govern this country with a sense of responsibility for the present and the future. Rather than from time to time engaging in destructive snide comments, we are prepared to govern and work constructively for the benefit of this community and Canada. As long as they are prepared to work with us, we will work with them. I am under no illusion.

As the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) said the other day, as a political party, they will only work with us as long as it is in their interest politically to do so. In the meantime, I am prepared to work with them to govern Canada and govern it properly. It seems the others are fearful of this. Day by day, each time we move along, we provide something a little more than they expected. The people of Canada are beginning to see this parliament has been made to work by those who have a willingness to see that Canada is governed properly in these most difficult times. These are not difficult times because we in Canada have a unique situation. It is a world-wide situation which is affecting every man, woman and child in almost every major country of the world. I am referring to the high cost of inflation.

It is said that this government is not doing enough. At least we are doing something. We are doing things that are needed today, tomorrow and in the long range planning for this country. Members opposite have not come up with one alternative or one proposal except the vague idea that