

a wide circulation and if a bill is presented to the house on Thursday, prior to the time that these national papers can give it some comment, there is a possibility, particularly when there are amendments and changes not announced at budget time, that the public as a whole have not had a proper opportunity to present their views to their members of parliament.

I should like to ask the minister my usual question with respect to this amendment. No amendment was indicated at the resolution stage or when the bill was presented a little late, as I say, last Wednesday. Have there been any protests by anybody in the industry who has seen the purport of the amendment?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Several submissions were received with respect to the extent and terms of the original proposal.

Mr. Benidickson: And this is the result.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The amendment which I introduced in the committee was commended by those who had made the original submissions and this further amendment was suggested by one of them.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

On clause 20—*Amount of premium deductible.*

Mr. Herridge: I should like to ask the minister a question largely prompted by a combination of my dullwittedness and suspicious nature. In subclause 2 of clause 20 the amending words are:

—or in the case of a taxpayer who is an employee of a life insurance corporation and is a beneficiary, contingently or otherwise, under a registered pension plan instituted or established by the corporation.

The explanation of the amendment on the opposite page reads as follows:

This amendment adds the underlined words to make it clear that employees of life insurance corporations, who are members of a registered pension plan established by such corporation for their employees, are subject to the limitations on the amount they may deduct as premiums under a registered retirement savings plan in the same manner as other taxpayers who are members of employee pension plans. The present wording of the paragraph being amended does not cover employees of life insurance corporations because these corporations have special rules for computing their taxable income.

Was this amendment found necessary because of some discovery as to the method of computing income tax of life insurance companies on the part of the minister's officials, and can he explain what is meant by the words "these corporations have special rules for computing their taxable income?"

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Questions were asked as to whether the persons here referred to were in fact so bound. That is what gave rise to a consideration of this question. I might say broadly in reply to the hon. gentleman that taxpayers who are members of registered pension plans may also deduct premiums paid under registered retirement savings plans but the combined total of the contributions into the two kinds of plans may not exceed 10 per cent of income or \$1,500 per year. Taxpayers who are not members of registered pension plans may deduct premiums not exceeding 10 per cent of income up to a maximum \$2,500 per year.

This amendment makes it clear that life insurance employees who are members of registered pension plans are subject to the \$1,500 maximum the same as other employees who are members of such plans. The purpose of the bill is to achieve equality of treatment. The limit on the amount deductible is lower for those who are members of registered pension plans because, in addition to deducting their own contributions, they also exclude from income during their working years amounts paid into the registered pension plan on their behalf by their employer.

Mr. Herridge: Was the amendment occasioned by a misunderstanding on the part of some people filing income tax returns or some irregularities on the part of employees of these companies?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There was no discovery in that sense. No irregularity was discovered. It was a matter of a normal review and an attempt to assure equality.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clauses 22 to 28 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill as amended agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Speaker: When shall said bill be read a third time?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): By leave, now.

Mr. Benidickson: Now, by leave.

Mr. Argue: Next sitting of the house.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: May I inquire what the house leader intends to do tomorrow? Perhaps he might also give us the program for the rest of the week.

Mr. Green: Tomorrow we shall commence with third reading of this bill. Then we shall take item No. 13 on today's order paper,