

Pension Act

The Deputy Chairman: If I heard the hon. member correctly his motion was to the effect that clause 2 of this bill be deleted. Well, the motion now before the house, if it were expressed in formal terms, would be to the effect that clause 2 be now adopted. I am therefore of the opinion that the hon. member's amendment is not an amendment but a straight negative and his purpose will be obtained by a vote on the section now before the committee.

Mr. Green: Mr. Chairman, on that point, there was an amendment moved to clause 2 in committee and I do not know in what shape clause 2 now comes before the committee of the whole house. If it is in the shape of the bill as originally drafted with the amendment moved in committee then I presume the motion moved by the hon. member for Royal would be a subamendment, but I would like to know what the position is at the present time.

The Deputy Chairman: For the information of the hon. member, the copy which I have before me indicates that clause 2 of the bill was adopted in committee without amendment.

Mr. Green: No, Mr. Chairman, that is not correct. Clause 2 was amended in committee and if I recall correctly it was the first subsection of that clause which was amended. Are we considering subsection 1 of clause 2 as amended in committee, or are we considering it as it was originally brought into the house with the recommendation from the committee for an amendment?

Mr. Bennett: Mr. Chairman, this section was amended in the special committee and the committee reported clause 2 as amended. The amendment is as follows:

That section 2 of Bill No. 339, an act to amend the Pension Act, be amended by striking out subsection 1 thereof and substituting the following:

1. Subsection 11 of section 3 of the said act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(11). The chairman, the deputy chairman, and the other commissioners and ad hoc commissioners shall each be paid a salary to be fixed by the governor in council, except that the salary to be paid to the ad hoc commissioners and the said other commissioners shall be fixed at the same rate."

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I rise briefly to express the opposition of this group to this section 2. While we are pleased to support this bill in general and are pleased to have the amendments that this bill introduces, we take strong exception to this section 2 for reasons similar to those outlined by the hon. member for Royal. In the committee exception was taken to it by opposition members and by some members on the government side of the house. In presenting evidence before the committee the Canadian Legion

[Mr. Brooks.]

took strong exception to the principle embodied in this section. On that account we are opposed to the section. We think it is unsound. We think it is taking away from parliament the control of the commission and is taking away its independence.

Mr. Quelch: Mr. Chairman,—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. In view of the discussion that we have just had I think perhaps one matter should be straightened out by the committee before five o'clock. The copy which I hold in my hand of Bill No. 339—that is the tabled copy—indicates that clause 2 of the bill has been marked and initialled by the chairman and by the clerk of the committee as adopted in its original form. There has now been drawn to my attention an amended form of clause 2 which, I am told unofficially, was supposed to have been adopted in that committee. It is my suggestion to this committee that if they wish to put this matter in order, at this stage we should have a minister on behalf of the crown move the amendment which some members at least believe was accepted in the veterans affairs committee and which has not been reported to us as having been adopted.

Mr. Harris: In order to regularize the proceedings, I will move as indicated in the amendment that has already been read.

Mr. Quelch: Mr. Chairman, I may say that we in this group are also opposed to this section.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but if the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will send up the amendment he has moved, I will read it to the committee, and we shall try to get this section regularized.

Mr. Harris: Very well.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Harris moves:

That section 2 of Bill No. 339, an act to amend the Pension Act, be amended by striking out subsection 1 thereof and substituting the following:

1. Subsection 11 of section 3 of the said act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"11. The chairman, the deputy chairman, and the other commissioners and ad hoc commissioners shall each be paid a salary to be fixed by the governor in council, except that the salary to be paid to the ad hoc commissioners and the said other commissioners shall be fixed at the same rate."

Shall the amendment carry? I believe the hon. member for Acadia—

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Chairman, I wish to move as a subamendment:

That section 2 of Bill No. 339 be deleted.