

they could retire and there would be no diminution of their pension of either pension under the Superannuation Act?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Correct.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Is it not really a vested right which we are now interfering with?

Dr. DAVIDSON: I think this is really a matter of opinion, Mr. Bell, as to whether in this whole rearrangement we are not interfering, if you want to use the expression, with rights that were previously vested in a law passed by the Parliament of Canada. The answer is, surely, that in every change we are making we are interfering with a vested right. Most of the other vested rights are not a subject of argument; this is a subject of argument, and I readily admit it is a matter of judgment as to whether in interference of this particular vested right we are dealing fairly in the circumstances with all those whose interests are affected. But it is no more an interference with a vested right in this instance than all the other interferences with other vested rights written in this whole piece of legislation.

Mr. KNOWLES: In the case of another vested right, namely, the right to retire at age 62, which carried with it the right to draw full pension at that point without having to work until age 65, there has been no change. I mention this, because it is an argument I would like to make, because they come back to me with the same argument: "That is O.K., if we understand it, but this other right that we had before we now lose."

Dr. DAVIDSON: The age 62, of course, is not affected by the advent of the Canada Pension Plan, because eligibility has not started. This is the distinction.

Mr. KNOWLES: To most employees who retire early there is an improvement. They want to know the pension they would have got and more to pick up when they are 65 to offset the deduction. This other group, however, will have to have some White Paper.

Perhaps at this point, Mr. Chairman, I should make a suggestion, that I made on second reading of the bill, that when we are through with all of this and this committee has finished and we return to the Civil Service organization, and so on, the Government should consider producing a White Paper that will answer these questions for the people. Civil servants are so numerous they are almost a public in themselves, and I would hope that a pretty useful White Paper could be prepared at that stage of the game.

Dr. DAVIDSON: I should say on that, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Knowles, that I would endorse this as being a very worthwhile suggestion. I think I can say to Mr. Knowles that it is the intention of the authorities responsible for the administration of the Public Service Superannuation Act, once we know what you are going to do with the legislation, to produce a bulletin that will highlight for the employees who come under the plans the main points of concern and interest.

I think that we have to wait to prepare that until we know what the legislation is going to be in its final form. I think we shall also benefit from the kinds of discussion taking place here and in the passage of the bill through Parliament, because this will serve to highlight for us as well as others the