

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman, most of the various clauses in the bill have to do with changes that are being made in rates and benefits, and the minister has indicated it is a bill to bring it in line with provincial payments. I wonder, before we start any discussion of the details, if the minister or someone will indicate whether there have been any changes of which the department is aware in the provincial benefits since we had the discussion in 1955 on the Government Employees' Compensation Act, and you will recall we had an appendix attached to the proceedings of the department in May, 1955, and the report of December, 1955.

Mr. BROWN: This has been brought up to date. Do you want to see that copy?

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: Do you propose to issue a revised one? The last one was 1955 and some of the provincial rates have been changed since then.

Mr. GREENE: That comes out in December of each year. It is revised once a year.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Are there any more questions. We have been pretty well over the ground on clause 1 and the explanatory notes there. If there are no other discussions, what do you say about clause 1? Will we carry clause 1?

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: Are you on clause 1 now?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Clause 1 and the explanatory notes, and even clause 4.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: If you are finished with this other matter we were discussing, you will recall in the house on second reading that Mr. Bell asked with reference to this subsection 3 of clause 1. In the explanatory note to this section it says:

Formerly the board had to decide how long compensation would be paid to an invalid child. The proposed subsection (6) provides a compensation in all cases will be paid to an invalid child until he ceases to be an invalid.

Now in the previous act, it says... "so long as in the opinion of the board it might reasonably have expected..." and so on. There is no mention of the board in the revision. Who is going to decide now whether the child is still an invalid?

Mr. BROWN: The definition of an invalid means physically or mentally incapable of earning. The board in dealing with that type of case would have to use the services of, I presume, a medical expert. We have not met that situation yet.

Mrs. FAIRCLOUGH: You see what I mean, Mr. Brown. In the old clause it was "so long as in the opinion of the board it might reasonably have been expected..." and in the new clause it says:

Compensation is payable to an invalid child without regard to the age of such child, and payments to such child shall continue until the child ceases to be an invalid.

It does not say that the board has to make that decision.

Mr. BROWN: I will ask Mr. Davis to deal with that. I think this provision was taken directly from the provisions of and is in line with one of the provincial workmen's compensation board acts.

Mr. W. B. DAVIS (*Solicitor, Department of Labour*): It follows exactly the wording of the provincial compensation boards. We have it in the provincial acts but where it does not say that the board decides, it would be the board that would make that decision.