

Canada Pension Plan

employees have little or no control in so far as revisions to the pension plans are concerned.

I ask the minister, what was the answer given by the government to the railway brotherhoods in reference to this matter, and particularly in reference to their complaint? Will there be less integration, or what promise was made to these people?

Miss LaMarsh: I was not present yesterday morning when these individuals met with some members of the cabinet. However, I am informed that no promises were made. These identical questions were raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre at about a quarter to six yesterday evening and were answered at considerable length by me at eight o'clock. I am sure my hon. friend will have all the information he seeks by referring to yesterday's *Hansard*.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 110—*Canada pension plan account established*.

Mr. Benson: I have a consequential amendment to clause 110 resulting from the amendment which was just passed to clause 91. It is simply a renumbering of the references to clause 91. I move, therefor:

That subsection (2) of section 110 be amended by striking out line 1 on page 72 and substituting the following:

"paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section 91".

That subsection (3) of section 110 be amended by striking out line 17 on page 72 and substituting the following:

"paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section 91".

Mr. Knowles: This, of course, is an amendment to clause 110 as already amended?

Mr. Benson: Yes.

The Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?
Amendment agreed to.

The Chairman: Shall the clause as amended carry?

Mr. Aiken: I should like to refer to the provisions of clause 110, subclause 2. I should like to ask the minister why these funds are to be paid into the consolidated revenue fund. I understand that a special account has been set up. It has been understood that the Canada pension plan would be completely independent of the general revenue of Canada, and that there would be no intermingling of the money with the consolidated revenue fund. I see there is a Canada pension plan account and therefore the funds are to be kept separate in

[Mr. Woolliams.]

that fashion, but is there any reason beyond straight convenience why these pension plan contributions should go into the consolidated revenue fund?

Mr. Benson: I think I can answer this quite briefly. The reason for doing this is that by putting contributions into the consolidated revenue fund it brings them under all the controls and audit of the federal government, whereas if they were put into a separate fund, and treated as moneys separate from the ordinary money of the government, we would have to go through the setting up of an audit detail, a separate body for handling the funds, and there would be the question of who would have control over them and who would be able to sign cheques. All the matters set out in the Financial Administration Act would, in effect, have to be brought into this legislation.

With respect to the naming of the account, the Canada pension plan account is really a ledger account. It is an account kept in the books, to which the money is credited, and when moneys are taken out of the consolidated revenue fund for investment they are charged to the Canada pension plan investment fund and remain as an asset of the Canada pension plan.

Mr. Aiken: I certainly understand that. I know that the consolidated revenue fund is mainly a bookkeeping entry. Not very much cash passes into it or out of it. What prompted my question was the rather casual statement the minister made yesterday that a person can pay his income tax and his payments to the Canada pension plan with the same cheque. Was that a slip of the tongue, or a fact?

Mr. Benson: No, this is a fact. When we receive funds in the Department of National Revenue we have to allocate them to various purposes. For example, when people pay their federal and provincial income tax in the one cheque, the money is allocated as between federal income tax and provincial income tax and is credited to these accounts. This will simply be another step in that process. Suppose you owed a balance of \$150 income tax and \$50 for Canada pension plan contributions. For the convenience of taxpayers it would be better to send in one cheque payable to the receiver general. We will immediately split it through the accounting processes of the department, and credit \$50 to the Canada pension plan account and \$150 to personal income tax revenue.