

Canada Pension Plan

United States come back here, make their report and have to pay personal income taxes on their earnings in the United States.

Mr. Benson: The income tax is based on residence, and contributions under the Canada pension plan are based on employment.

The Chairman: Order. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member but it seems to me that the discussion during the last few minutes has gone away beyond the confines of clause 103. I ask the co-operation of hon. members in returning to clause 103, in the hope that perhaps that clause might be adopted.

Mr. Langlois: I respectfully consider—

The Chairman: Order, please; the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Rosthern.

Mr. Nasserden: I should like to ask the minister if a beneficiary under the Canada pension plan has to be a Canadian citizen?

Mr. Benson: No.

Mr. Alkenbrack: I regret to disturb the composure of the minister, but I still have not received an answer to the question I recently asked. Does clause 103 compel the province of Quebec or any other opting out province to accept this specific numbering scheme?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Would a federal civil servant residing in the province of Quebec be numbered and registered with the federal plan or the Quebec plan?

Mr. Benson: If an agreement is worked out with the province under clause 4 he would be covered by the Quebec plan. If not, he would be covered under the federal plan.

Mr. McIntosh: How does this provision affect a federal member of parliament from the province of Quebec?

Mr. Benson: I am informed that he is treated as being an employee in the province of Ontario for the purpose of this measure.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Has the minister had the assurance of the present government and the premier of Quebec that the Quebec plan will be fully portable with other provinces? I did not hear an unequivocal answer to that question.

Mr. Benson: They have passed a detailed resolution indicating that it will be a very similar plan and as such it will be portable.

The Chairman: In any event, this question is not relevant to clause 103.

Mr. Langlois: I have respectfully considered the views you expressed a minute ago, Mr. Chairman, concerning the lumbermen. You said this case was not relevant to clause 103. I think, Mr. Chairman, we have in the past neglected these lumbermen, and the same thing is happening again. The Minister of National Revenue can find a way of taxing them, but he cannot find a way of giving them a pension. He can find a way of giving them a number. I do not know how the minister will be able to work his way out of this problem, but if he can find a way of taxing these people he can also find a way of giving them a pension. He knows their earnings; he taxes them. He could work out an agreement so that these workers across the border would be able to contribute to this plan, even if only the employees contribute and the employers in the United States do not participate. The citizen could contribute to the plan and at least receive some sort of a pension later on. Some of these people have worked part time in the United States for many years, but they have always lived in Canada. They have been neglected in the past, and I think this is one time the government should consider them. I should like to get the minister's views on this problem.

The Chairman: Shall the clause carry?

Some hon. Members: No.

Progress reported.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.