

Those are ringing words indeed from one of the greatest judges from Atlantic Canada to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada bench.

Finally, two very short observations. I wonder why the department did not accept the request made, as I understand it, by the judges that the pensions of their widows be set at three-ninths instead of two-ninths. It seems to me to be a small proportion even at that, but this is one request the judges made to the department. My second observation concerns the earlier retirement provisions within the act. We have scouted them on other occasions and I think in principle they have merit.

I accept the bill in principle, Mr. Speaker, but with regard to the Canadian Judicial Council, and also the pensions of the widows of judges, I should like the bill to be given some further consideration by the minister and his department when it comes before the committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I must advise the House that if the parliamentary secretary speaks now he will close the debate.

[Translation]

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my fear at the thought of piloting the bill on second reading completely vanished when I saw the courtesy and the kindness—somewhat exaggerated at times I might say—extended to me by hon. members in this short debate.

Undoubtedly—and I am most grateful to them—this courtesy is that usually extended by the House to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) when he introduces bills. I am deeply grateful.

Many suggestions have been made and some questions have been raised. I do not intend to reply to all, although each one will be considered by the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, but I would like to point out some hon. members' comments now that the increase in judges' salaries has been accepted in principle.

The purpose of the bill under consideration is not only to increase judges' salaries, but having accepted the principle of the bill, some members said that they disagreed with this increase because they thought that this was not the time to introduce it.

Those who are not altogether opposed to it but who object to the timing of this increase should remember, as the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) put it very well, that if we wait until all social justices are corrected in Canada and throughout the world, of course, we shall have to give up the idea of having justice administered by qualified and dedicated incumbents who will be willing to accept a position as judges.

In any sector of society—whether in industry or elsewhere—if there is nothing to be gained by an employee in doing his very best, in other words, if his employer will not grant him an increase in salary to encourage him to work better, the organization is bound to experience some difficulties.

Since the quality of the judges we should appoint has been mentioned, I feel that we must choose the best

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possible candidates, to ensure that in our country justice is above suspicion.

Personally, I feel that Canadian society can afford to pay those judges an adequate salary that will make up for what they have lost in private life.

I thank the members, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, for their courtesy and their suggestions. We will improve the bill in committee, if necessary, for some of the suggestions made, for instance those of the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather), will be well received by the Minister of Justice. I can may say that some amendments will be made to the bill in committee.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Mr. Speaker: Carried on division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

• (5:00 p.m.)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HOURS OF SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I should like to seek the indulgence of the House to revert to motions to put a previously discussed motion affecting the hours of sitting on Wednesday, June 30, 1971.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: The effect of the motion is that the House that day will sit from ten o'clock a.m. to two o'clock p.m. continuously, or until hon. members return from royal assent in the other place.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, in granting unanimous consent I hope the government House leader will give us consideration sometimes when we ask for privileges. We have been granting a great deal recently without getting much in return.