

the plan; arrangements will be made to integrate the Public Service Superannuation Act with this act, as outlined by the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance in his speech during the Second Reading.

Migratory and casual workers are excluded because of the difficulty of reaching them. In agriculture, horticulture, fishing, forestry, logging and lumbering, a worker who does not spend at least twenty-five working days a year with the same employer, or one who does not earn at least \$250 a year from the same employer, will not be covered under the plan. Most fruit and tobacco harvesters, week-end wood-cutters, forest fire fighters, and other migratory workers in this country have other employment for much of the year, and spend less than 25 days on one job in these primary industries. The \$250 a year represents an income of \$10 a day for 25 days; it is also the amount of income a married woman can earn without affecting her husband's taxation status. In the United States program, a similar provision is made for farm workers. They are excluded from coverage unless they work for one employer for at least 20 days a year or earn at least \$150.

Similarly, it would be extremely difficult to enforce the collection of contributions from employers of casual labour—labour that is not related to the purpose of the employer's trade or business, and is of an irregular or unpredictable nature. Such casual workers as grass-cutters, snow-shovellers, and part-time cleaning help will not be covered for this type of employment.

Mr. Monteith has asked about employees of federal crown agencies in Québec. Section 4 of the bill provides that federal public servants and employees of federal crown agencies will be covered under this act, as will any persons in employment which is outside provincial jurisdiction. However, the section also provides that where a province is operating a comparable plan, an agreement can be entered into with that province under which the collection of contributions and the payment of benefits for these employees will be administered by the provincial plan. Quebec is willing to enter such an agreement. Since comparable provisions will apply under both acts, it becomes a matter of convenience for the employee to deal with the nearest office. In any event, since the plans are the same, it will not make any difference which plan he is under. Identity cards, we anticipate, will also be identical.

I should perhaps say a few words about farmers and fishermen. As you will recall, Bill No. C-75 excluded all agricultural workers and all self-employed people from compulsory coverage, but allowed them to join the plan voluntarily. Bill No. C-136 has eliminated voluntary protection to these people. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture in its brief last year to the government advocated the compulsory coverage of farmers and the Quebec report recommended this approach for the Quebec pension plan. To critics who complain, and I hear some do, that this is another step to a regimented state, may I say that it is the approach which has been followed for almost the last 10 years in that bastion of democracy and individual enterprise, the United States.

Self-employed farmers and fishermen will contribute to the plan on the basis of their net earnings—gross earnings from operating their farms or boats, minus the expenses involved in carrying on their businesses. This, of course, means net earnings before deducting personal exemptions for income tax purposes. It is not the taxable income but the net income.

We recognize that farmers and fishermen with net earnings of less than \$1,000 or \$2,000 if married, do not have to file tax returns. For that reason a simple form will be available for them to report their earnings for Canada pension plan purposes. However, to prevent people from making a minute contribution simply in order to participate in the plan, self-employed people will only contribute if their net earnings are \$800 or more a year. This means