

*Canada Pension Plan*

end up with two numbers. But apparently the electronic process, computer or machine system is sorting out this duplication, and it will be taken care of.

**Mr. Monteith:** This will not happen any more; in other words, once a man has his number, this will be his permanent number?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Yes.

**Mr. Monteith:** Has it not thus far been done that way in connection with unemployment insurance?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Yes.

**Mr. Clancy:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if this applies to those who have been self-employed for years?

**Mr. MacEachen:** There have been, as I understand it, self-employed persons who have come forward and registered up to the present time. The same facilities will be available for the future registration of the self-employed; they may register as they have in the former registration.

**Mr. Clancy:** A supplementary question, Mr. Chairman. How is the department going to calculate the contributions of the self-employed under the regulations which are to govern them?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, I think I dealt with this matter relatively thoroughly on an earlier occasion. The self-employed person will, when he files his tax return at the end of the year, file a supplementary return which will show his earnings for pension purposes, on which his contribution at the rate of 3.6 per cent, after taking off the basic exemption, will be calculated; and he will remit the amount that is owing at the end of the year. This is modified, of course, by the instalment payment system we have for self-employed persons, whereby people who normally remit quarterly instalments during the year will make the same calculation with regard to pension as they do with regard to income tax. They will remit that on a quarterly basis. Farmers will make the two remittances per year, at the end of December and at the end of April, although I was informed by one of my hon. friends opposite that they usually only make the payments at the end of April.

**Mr. Clancy:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know how the minister's department is going to arrive at a decision in this respect. What about moonlighting? What about all the other angles? This is a bureaucrat's dream. I am

[Mr. MacEachen.]

just interested in how the department is going to work it out.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, I believe clauses 10 and 12 deal with moonlighting, and we have already passed those clauses. I believe they were adequately discussed in the committee. The question has been raised very often, and I think there is an adequate explanation of the position of moonlighters if one looks at the deliberations of the pension committee in this regard.

**Mr. Clancy:** A further supplementary question. Will the minister define a moonlighter?

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the minister what would happen in the case of a self-employed person who refused to register.

**Mr. Clancy:** He can opt out as an individual, like the provinces.

**Mr. Benson:** Clause 102 (2) deals with this matter, Mr. Chairman. The only penalty that is involved is loss of possible benefits under the Canada pension plan.

**Mr. Ricard:** If I understand correctly the answer of the minister, this means that it would leave the door open for many self-employed persons to stay away from the plan.

**Mr. Benson:** No, Mr. Chairman, this is not quite the case; because they would still owe the money and we could still go after them in regard to their contributions to the plan. They owe the money to the crown, the same as a person owes his income tax to the crown, and there are provisions in this bill which provide for the crown collecting these contributions. It is a compulsory plan for the self-employed, and the government has the right, under this bill, to collect the contributions from them, just the same as they have the right to collect income tax.

**Mr. Ricard:** This is exactly what I want to know from the minister. Does the government intend to take action in the case where a person refuses to join the plan? I would like to have it in black and white.

**Mr. Benson:** Yes.

**Mr. Rhéaume:** Mr. Chairman, while we have the Minister of Labour here, I wonder if he could answer a couple of questions that are of concern to me. In the first place, to my understanding of the clauses relating to social insurance numbers the minister's department is responsible for the issuance of social insurance numbers to cover people who will be drawing benefits from the Can-