

Canada Pension Plan

premier might decide that his province should have their own plan. If that happened, what would be the position in regard to this plan? I think the minister will find that some premiers might possibly be stubborn in this regard, and it might mean that a person who had been contributing would be caught between two fires and would be paying in both places.

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Rosthern.

Mr. Langlois: It takes an awfully long time, sometimes, to get an answer. Perhaps my question was not quite clear, and I will put it again. I have patience in putting questions. I think this question is one that should be answered and the position clarified. If the minister has not any solution to the problem at the moment, let clause 114 stand until it is amended to provide a situation which is comparable and acceptable to the provinces, in case they wish to move out of the plan. I believe these problems are better foreseen and dealt with now, rather than trying to correct them later on. We should face up to this question now.

Miss LaMarsh: Happily, Mr. Chairman, provinces are spoken for by their provincial premiers, and not by the hon. member; and the provincial premiers have not indicated that they are going out of the plan.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Is the Minister of National Health and Welfare implying that the members of the house do not represent anything, that the electors are represented only by the provincial premiers? If that is what she means, I think that requires an explanation because I feel that we represent the electors of the province of Quebec as much as the premier does.

I think the Minister of National Health and Welfare would be well advised to explain her statement because she seems to want to deprive members of this house of their rights and privileges.

[*Text*]

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should remind the hon. member who has just spoken that before the vote was taken on the resolution he indicated that because his party was from the province of Quebec they were not interested and would not participate in the debate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: What the Minister of National Health and Welfare just said is correct, and it explains why I did not take part in the debate earlier. On the other hand, we are prepared to discuss the clauses which might affect the province of Quebec in the future, the amendments which will affect the rights and privileges of the whole Quebec population.

I think that the Minister of National Health and Welfare will agree with me that this clause can affect the rights of Quebec.

[*Text*]

Miss LaMarsh: I was very happy to hear what the hon. member has said, Mr. Chairman, but I must remind him that he is out of order because clause 114 could not possibly apply to the province of Quebec.

Mr. Langlois: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might be allowed to complete my argument. A few moments ago the minister said in answer to my argument, and in answer to what the hon. member for Lapointe suggested, that this arrangement should be left to the premiers of the provinces. That being the case, what in Sam Hill are we doing discussing a national scheme under which these arrangements fall within provincial jurisdiction? When I vote on this issue I will vote because of reasons other than the fact that I am from the province of Quebec, and I am sure that my vote will have an effect from Halifax to Vancouver, and will be cast in the interests of every citizen of this country. I do not intend to bury my head in the sand like an ostrich and wait until somebody kicks me in the rear end before I seriously consider the circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps in a more gentle way I might ask the minister to answer my question. I would appreciate an answer.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I would simply say in answer to the hon. gentleman's question that the proposed plan is based on employment rather than residence. I have given my hon. friend this information on many occasions during our consideration of various clauses. However, if he intends to relate the possible circumstances with hypothetical situations I am afraid that the appropriate answers cannot be given.

The hypothetical situations referred to by the hon. member could not possibly occur in respect of the province of Quebec because that province is going to set up its own plan. However, if another province elected