

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION BILL

THIRD READING

The Senate resumed from this morning the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Golding for the third reading of Bill 440, an Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: The honourable senator from Victoria (Hon. Mr. Hackett) adjourned the debate in order that I might obtain certain information.

Hon. Mr. Hackett: I have nothing more to say. My object was really to afford an opportunity for information to be obtained which had been asked for after the third reading had been moved.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: While this bill was under consideration the honourable the senior senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) spoke as follows:

I should like to request the Leader of the Government to be good enough to present information bearing on clause 4 as to how many contributors and how much in contributions will be added to to the superannuation fund as a result of this particular provision.

The answer to that is as follows: There are 19 cases which will derive immediate benefit from this amendment, and the number otherwise affected who will derive benefit in the future is expected to be small, probably not exceeding 30 altogether. Until either retirement or death takes place, the exact number will not be known. The remainder of the 1,188 persons who transferred in accordance with the pension provisions of the Terms of Union have been covered by the existing provisions of the statutes so that the additional liability to the Superannuation Account can be seen to be relatively small.

In the meantime, the contributions required of these persons will continue to be made so that honourable senators may rest assured that the normal payments will be made into the Superannuation Account.

The senior senator from Ottawa also said:

At the same time I think it would be useful to have some statement regarding the financial status of the fund itself.

I have that information. In fact I find that this information was given by the Honourable Mr. Harris, the Minister of Finance, to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, and it appears in their record of May 10. It is as follows:

The total amount standing to the credit of the Superannuation Account on March 31, 1956, was \$804.8 million. Of this amount, \$615.8 million represents contributions made by employees and

the Government (including interest at 4 per cent per annum). It includes, also, \$175 million representing special contributions of the Government toward making up the accumulated deficiency in the fund. The remaining \$189 million, which is shown on the Government balance sheet as a deferred charge, is the present unamortized deficiency.

The total of \$804.8 million shown in the Superannuation Account constitutes the approximate actuarial liability of the Government with respect to future superannuation benefits for all public servants covered by the act. This account is not a cash fund but represents only the accounting record of the Government's liability with respect to the transactions or operations under the Superannuation Act, and is shown as a liability in the statement of the Government's assets and liabilities.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

INDIAN BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald moved the second reading of Bill 439, an Act to amend the Indian Act.

He said: Honourable senators, this bill makes amendments to various sections of the Indian Act. I think it would be preferable that I go through the bill clause by clause, not necessarily starting at the beginning.

One change in the act which, I think, will be of interest to most honourable senators is in the provisions regarding the use of alcoholic beverages by Indians. It will be found in clause 23, page 8. Prior to the Indian Act, 1951, it was illegal for Indians to have liquor either on or off a reserve, or for anyone to sell or give them liquor. By section 95 of the act provision was made whereby Indians could drink in public places off a reserve, provided a request is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the province, followed by a proclamation bringing the section into force by the Governor in Council.

At the present time the provisions of that section are in effect in the Yukon, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. This bill contains no new principle in respect to the obtaining of liquor by Indians. It merely provides that the same principle shall have application in the case of purchases in a province of liquor to be taken off the premises and consumed elsewhere in accordance with the laws of the province. I think all honourable senators will agree that it would be a grave invasion of provincial rights for Parliament to attempt to legislate for Indians in this particular matter without regard for the provinces. Either the present prohibition must continue,