

*Canada Pension Plan (No. 2)*

Last spring, in preparation for the conclusion of the federal-provincial agreement, the minister tabled an orange booklet entitled "Working Paper on Social Security in Canada". On September 25 and 26, a conference of provincial ministers was held in Charlottetown to discuss the problem of social assistance throughout the country. Finally, on October 11 and 12 a conference was held in Ottawa which resolved the current problems connected with the Quebec Pension Plan.

The agreement concluded featured five points, including the following:

First, escalation of benefit reflecting the cost of living; second, higher maximum earnings used for the calculation of benefit and contribution rates, two items that are contained in Bill C-224; third, maximum pension benefits under the Canada Pension Plan; fourth, change in employee residence; fifth, suppression of earnings and employment income evaluation for contributors aged from 65 to 69 under the Canada Pension Plan.

Since then, the minister in co-operation with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) explained in detail Bill C-224 in his press release No. 118 dated October 22 that mentions also, as you can read on page 3 in the French version of the release:

Both ministers have pointed out . . .

—of course the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Stanbury) is involved as he is responsible for collecting the contributions—

Both ministers have pointed out that passage of the bill would ensure higher benefits for the 500,000 Canada Pension Plan contributors; furthermore it would provide an increase in future pension, death or disability benefits. This legislation would also restore the parallelism between the Canada Pension Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan concerning contribution rates, escalation of present benefits and future pension benefits. This implies that the Quebec government will amend its pension plan to mesh with the Canada Pension Plan as they agreed at the last meeting of federal and provincial welfare ministers.

It is not the only field in which Federal-provincial agreements were successful, particularly those entered to with the province of Quebec. It might be good at this stage to set the record straight, because some candidate in the Quebec election tried to make the people believe that Ottawa and Quebec were always wrangling. Some claimed that those clashes were becoming more frequent at the expense of the taxpayer. There was even talk of squandering, duplication and mess.

Obviously, if those accusations were founded, there would be cause for concern, because in fact, under a federal system, the citizens elect governments, pay taxes to both levels of government and on the other hand they get services from the federal and provincial governments. They want to get their money's worth and who can blame them. They then have the right to require that the governments they elect and finance co-operate. The Ottawa and Quebec administrations are aware of that right and try to respect it.

Here are some examples of a common commitment in the interest of Quebecers that was made a short time ago: firstly, the federal-provincial agreement on family allowances. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1974, every Quebec family will receive \$15 a month for the first child, \$20 for the second,

\$33 for the third and \$37 for every other child, thanks to the influx of federal moneys; the ventilation of which was prepared by the provincial government.

Here is another example of federal-provincial agreements: along with other governments of Canada, the province of Quebec participates in the review of the Canadian social security system which originated, as the minister said, with the Castonguay-Nepveu report. Also, what about what was done concerning manpower centres: the federal and provincial offices already cooperate in training Canadians through manpower centres. Also, in the field of economic development, the province of Quebec and the federal government are developing a general agreement which, as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson) has announced, will allow both governments to jointly identify opportunities for economic progress and apply resources to these opportunities.

There is another area, I suggest, that must be underlined, that of environment: Quebec shares with the federal government and the Ontario government in the preparation of studies on the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and the Ottawa River. The federal government and the province of Quebec succeeded in cleaning the St. Charles River.

Moreover, agreements were reached on the development of national parks like Forillon, Cartier-Brébeuf in the Quebec City area and another in the St. Maurice Valley; the federal government is making arrangements with the province of Quebec for staging the Jeux de la francophonie to be held in 1974.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I might go on quoting other matters on which agreements have been reached between the federal and the provincial governments but, in my opinion, in order to bring supporting evidence for what I said earlier, namely that federal-provincial relations are very good, even with the province of Quebec, I suggest that the examples I quoted are sufficient to show up to what extent this is true, and to contradict some memorable statements that were made during the election campaign that came to an end yesterday in the province of Quebec.

There is a point on which I would like to draw the minister's attention and about which I made a speech in this House on February 22, 1973, namely private pension plans. I suggest that the federal government might intervene, although, from the constitutional point of view, private pension plans fall within provincial jurisdiction; I suggest that this very important matter which was influenced to a certain extent by the amendments to the Canada Pension Plan might be put on the agenda of meetings to be held between interested parties from various provinces and the federal minister. Besides, I think that the minister himself has mentioned the influence these amendments will have on private pension plans. If I am not mistaken, this has been reported at page 7326 of *Hansard* for October 29, and I quote:

The changes to the Canada Pension Plan which the federal government has developed in conjunction with the provinces, and which I am committed to place before Parliament, present the government with a difficult dilemma.

As I mentioned a few moments ago, these changes will, if enacted, have a profound and long term effect on the Canada Pension Plan. Many Canadians, organizations, and Parliament