

Canada Pension Plan

man, I think this is one of the most outrageous things the minister has had the opportunity of saying, and I know she has had the opportunity of saying quite a few, as she probably appreciates at the moment. I recall her mentioning last Tuesday evening that she really believed in the television program "This Hour has Seven Days". I know her anxiety to get the bill through, but I do not think she should suggest for one minute that the minister of the day should be the one to decide whether or not a plan is comparable.

I really rose, Mr. Chairman, with the idea of asking one question, and a very simple question. The minister has indicated, and we all agreed, that after this bill has received royal assent, any province will have the option within 30 days of saying whether or not they are going to develop their own plan. I only want to know when that province must have its plan in operation.

Miss LaMarsh: January 1, 1966, as appears in clause 3, passed last week.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron: Mr. Chairman, we are precisely considering the eventual withdrawal of a province. Now, Quebec does not participate in the Canada pension plan. Mention was made of a comparable or similar plan, but the minister said she was not acquainted with the proposed Quebec pension plan. Could we ask, therefore, what would happen if Quebec decided to collect contributions on the basis of the place of residence instead of the place of employment, for instance in the case of all Hull residents who now work for the federal government?

[Text]

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I need not trouble my hon. friend any longer about this. I have not seen the Quebec legislation; nor, to my knowledge, have my officials. But Quebec produced a second resolution in very considerable detail, which indicates a virtually identical plan. That has been published, and we have seen it; it has been printed for some months.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Let us suppose that Quebec decides to amend its pension plan to include workers residing in the province of Quebec, wherever the employer may reside, would such a Quebec resident whose employer resides outside

[Mr. Monteith.]

Quebec have to contribute twice to the pension plan, that is to both federal and provincial plans?

[Text]

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I think we need not be concerned with this question. Quebec indicated, in its resolution, that it intends to follow this type of scheme, and not a residence based scheme.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, we are precisely considering clause 114 providing for withdrawal from the pension plan. What would happen if the province of Quebec amended its legislation so as to cover with its own plan a number of its citizens who would previously have contributed to the federal scheme under this legislation? The Quebec residents involved having thus been withdrawn from the Canada pension plan, would the federal government hand over to the province the money accumulated in the contributors' account?

[Text]

Miss LaMarsh: My hon. friend has just come in, but we have been discussing this for some length of time. Clause 114, which we are now considering, does not apply to Quebec; it applies to a province which is in the plan and subsequently decides to go out.

Mr. Langlois: Supposing a province does opt out and decides to get its contributions according to residence and not according to where a person is employed? I know that according to this plan it should be where the person is employed, and not according to his residence. But some premiers would be stubborn enough to hang on to their own end of the string, and I am wondering what would be the position of this plan if that were to happen.

Miss LaMarsh: It would not be deemed to be a comparable plan. You would have all sorts of anomalies; some people would be double contributing, and some people would be completely omitted.

Mr. Langlois: This is the trouble with this providing for a comparable plan. Would the federal government consider the possibility of keeping its fingers out of these situations if, for example, a person residing in Ontario decides to move out? I know the premier of Ontario did suggest having his own plan. They are going to be in this plan now, but he might come back to that idea, or another