

Mr. KNOWLES: But at this point, if he reaches 65 the percentage reduction set out in here in a year comes into effect, presumably offset by what he will get from the Canada Pension Plan, with the understanding that if it is not the same he can apply for the difference.

Mr. CLARK: That is correct.

Mr. KNOWLES: The point that I think should be explained to the house is that there are a lot of public servants who do not understand it, particularly employees in the Post Office service. They know they have the right to retire at 62, and now they have to go to age 65. I think this should be made clearer to those who are affected.

Mr. TARDIF: If an employee retires before 65, does not that apply to those who are retiring for health reasons?

Dr. DAVIDSON: After the age of 60 you can retire at your own choice or that of your employer.

Mr. CARON: And get the federal pension anyway.

Mr. KNOWLES: In spite of what the experts say, I think it should be on the record, because I think this is the point that causes the greatest amount of misunderstanding and disturbance.

Dr. DAVIDSON: We would be glad to repeat some of your words, but not all of them, Mr. Knowles.

Mr. CHATTERTON: From the answer you have just given, I take it that if a civil servant retires in 1967 he is not eligible for any Canada Pension Plan benefits, but he would have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan. He goes on the P.S.S.A. He is not eligible for C.P.P. because he has not reached the age limit. If he retires next year, having contributed to C.P.P. the pension is strictly a P.S.S.A. pension, but when he arrives at an age at which he is eligible for C.P.P., his P.S.S.A. is changed, is that correct?

Mr. CLARK: That is right. I think Mr. Knowles was dealing with the case when the plan was operating smoothly but subclause (2) of clause 9 on page 13 of the bill, gives this effect.

Mr. KNOWLES: On this question, may I raise one other point? Is it a fact as set out that a person whose combined pensions do not equal what they would have done under the P.S.S.A. must apply for the difference? If so, why is it not automatic?

Mr. CLARK: This really stems from the Canada Pension Plan. The Superannuation Branch has no authority to go and ask the administration of the Canada Pension Plan what pension the man is getting from the Canada Pension Plan. You will recall that in the Canada Pension Plan there were very close restrictions on the dissemination of information on pensions even within the Government service, and therefore it was necessary to have the individual retired civil servant initiate the action for the release of the information from the Canada Pension Plan administration, whereby it could be established that he was receiving—

Mr. KNOWLES: That would place the pensions on the basis of dissemination of information.