

Canada Pension Plan

was in the country operating a business he would be deemed to be a resident in Canada and expected to comply with the law. If the individual employees in question were only employed for two or three weeks but not deemed to be exempted employees under the terms of the bill, the contractor would be expected to comply with the law just as would any other person in Canada. If he does not comply with the law we will take the steps that we can take within the country to collect from him. If he comes into Canada once, does this and gets out, possibly we can never collect from him, but this is exactly the same situation that exists when somebody comes into Canada, makes a quick profit, pulls out of the country and has not paid income tax here. Suppose he comes from the United States. We have no tax collection agreement with that country and therefore we just could not collect. However, I think the number of instances of this sort is rather small and the losses would be infinitesimal under a plan such as this.

The other point that my hon. friend raised was the question of the exchange student who comes into Canada. If his earnings were below the \$600 exemption there would be no deductions from him under the Canada pension plan. He would make no contributions if his earnings during the few weeks involved were under \$600. If his earnings were beyond the \$600 level the employer would be expected, under the legislation as it now exists, to collect contributions from him which would go to his credit in the Canada pension plan. If he was here for one year while going to university, earned \$1,000 and then left Canada and never came back it might be that if we took the total number of employable years and divided it into his contributions to the Canada pension plan he might have a few cents coming to him at age 65, but I think this is something one cannot deal with unless one has a specific case.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, in the event that not only Quebec but other provinces should establish their own pension plans, what would the federal legislation have to do with the administration of a provincial legislation?

First of all, the federal government has clearly established that this pension plan is not intended to help people aged 65 to 70, but to find from \$5 to \$8 billion between now and 1975. Now, the first objective of this pension plan is not to help retired people, but the government.

[*Mr. Benson.*]

Mr. Chairman, since there are provinces other than Quebec that want their own plans, will the federal government be then satisfied with giving numbers to Canadians?

In answer to the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Prittie) who is afraid that a national dividend may not be paid to him under a number, I think that instead of considering the establishment of a Canadian pension plan which the provinces do not want, the government should consider dispensing not poverty but bounties, and not to numbers but to citizens; such a distribution would be called a national dividend, and would be of benefit not to numbers, but to human beings.

Now, my question to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Benson) is this—because I believe that there are now three ministers interested in this pension plan, and even the whole government—if each province sets up a pension plan managed by itself, will the federal government be content to give numbers to Canadian citizens? Ontario and other provinces have expressed the wish to establish their own pension plans. Since Quebec will have its own, why should Ottawa interfere with exclusively provincial prerogatives? I would like to know the answer of the Minister of National Revenue on this matter.

[*Text*]

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I think some of the questions raised by my hon. friend deal with the principle of the bill which was approved by the house several weeks ago by a vote of 180 to nothing. However, in answer to one of his questions I should like to point out that section 3 of the act, which we passed several days ago, deals with the conditions under which provinces can move out of the Canada pension plan. We have no reason to believe at present that more than one province in the country will choose to move out of the plan. Therefore I believe his question with regard to numbers and whether or not the federal government would simply be the authority for passing out numbers in the country is a purely hypothetical one and one I really cannot answer under present circumstances.

Mr. Cantelon: Mr. Chairman, I have a supplementary question to that asked by the hon. member for Edmonton East. It has to do with students who come to Canada from other countries on scholarships, and there are quite a few who now do this. Would such