

Mr. HEENAN: I prefer to wait until we get to those sections of the bill.

Mr. McGIBBON: The question is vital to the effect of the bill as a whole.

Mr. HEENAN: Those sections merely provide a method of arranging matters between the provinces in the case of removal from one province to another. It is an accounting problem as between the provinces and has nothing to do with the principle of the bill.

Mr. McGIBBON: But the Solicitor General admits that you cannot enforce it.

Mr. CANNON: A distinction must be drawn between the powers of the federal government to legislate and the ancillary powers which we are exercising in order to put into force legislation within our own jurisdiction. If my hon. friend will examine that point with a colleague of his who belongs to the legal profession he will find that I am right.

Mr. McGIBBON: How will one province collect the money from another without the machinery to collect it?

Mr. CANNON: The machinery will be organized under the provisions of this bill.

Mr. McGIBBON: But the Solicitor General admits that the province will not have power.

Mr. CANNON: Certainly the province will have power. The moment the province joins the scheme a law will be passed by the provincial legislature and it is to be assumed that the legislators in that province will have sense enough to see that their legislation is put into proper effect. As my hon. friend knows, in law, *omnia rite presumuntur*.

Mr. KAISER: I am certainly in favour of doing something for the aged. But I want to get clearly in my mind exactly why the government seeks to associate itself with the provinces in this matter. It has been suggested that the necessary machinery already exists in the provinces and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan) has referred to the compensation board of Ontario and the mothers' allowance board, which organization, he says, might undertake to administer the scheme. I do not know whether the minister has ever had very much experience with the compensation board of Ontario, but having myself been associated with the workmen of a great industrial city for a number of years I have had to follow quite closely the operations of this organization, and I doubt whether it could possibly handle a matter of this kind. Has the minister ever asked that

board whether it would take on this additional work without having to set up just such machinery as this government would have to organize if the act were administered altogether federally? Without any desire to be discourteous I must say that the suggestion in regard to the mothers' allowance board is another absurdity. The work is entirely different. The nearest parallel I see to a proper administrative body under this law would be the soldiers' pensions board. Some central organization such as that would be simple and would cost less to the Dominion.

Mr. McPHERSON: I rise to a point of order. Half an hour ago I had the floor and was endeavouring to discuss section 3 of the bill, and a dozen or more hon. gentleman got up to ask questions. I have been waiting patiently for an opportunity to continue my remarks.

Mr. KAISER: I said I wanted to ask the government a question but I did not tell anybody how much more I had to say. I have already asked one question of the minister and there are one or two more that I want to put to him. It is said that we are going to contribute 50 per cent of the cost of the scheme; that is to say, if it costs \$24,000,000 we are going to pay \$12,000,000. If the government are really sincere would it not be better for them to make a start independently of the provinces? It would be infinitely better, it would be more satisfactory to the people at large, if this government said, "Instead of paying \$20 a month and depending upon the provinces to join, we will inaugurate the scheme ourselves, put it into force at once, and pay \$10 a month." Let us start somewhere. You could pay \$10 a month the first year, if it were felt at the next session that we should pay more, then we could increase the amount, and if the provinces wanted to join there would be nothing to hinder them from coming in. The government are bringing in here a bill in which there are so many "ifs" and "ands" and "buts," so many qualifying conditions that it is the honest opinion of the people that they have no intention of putting it into operation. I really believe that to be the feeling of the country. There are a good many men in the government who would like to see the act operative, just as there are others on this side. I gave this matter my attention for many years before coming here and I still believe that the old people of the country should be taken care of. But I do think that the government ought to make a start independently from some point, however small the amount they might pay.