

or after the termination of service of a member of the plan before he attains the retirement age under that plan.

There is nothing to prevent a plan from providing for the payment of reduced or increased annuities because of early or deferred commencement of payment. Reduction in the amount of an annuity before it commences is also permitted in order to provide for survivor benefits, for example. Variation in the amount of the annuity in order to take account of pensions payable under the Old Age Security Act, the Canada Pension Plan or the Quebec Pension Plan is also permitted. These plans must meet the funding and solvency requirements to be set out in the regulations as well as meet the requirements for investment fund moneys. These requirements are also to be prescribed by regulation.

In view of the keen interest which has been evidenced and the indication of the acceptability which was given of the policy behind this legislation, particularly when the Statute Law (Superannuation) Amendment Act, 1966 was before the special joint committee on the public service of Canada, I feel certain that the provisions of this bill will commend themselves to hon. members.

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief. As the parliamentary secretary has outlined, this bill was given first reading on July 7, 1966. At that time the minister gave a very brief explanation which really did not give us any information whatever. Today the parliamentary secretary has given some further details, but I think it is obvious that we will have to question him when we reach committee stage.

The parliamentary secretary intimated that this legislation is similar to that passed by the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, and that the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are included in the over-all picture. The parliamentary secretary outlined several requirements of the legislation and also mentioned a few of the things which would not be requirements under the act. I am wondering whether the clauses of this bill and the requirements under the bill have been discussed with and approved by any employee groups. For instance, as I understand the bill the Canada Pension Plan is to be co-ordinated with certain other plans, or this may take place. Have any employee groups objected to this particular provision?

I understand that provision is also made for portability, and that is a good thing. I think we will have to wait and see what further

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information we can get when we discuss the individual clauses of the bill.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I well remember the occasion on December 18, 1964, well over two years ago, when the then minister of finance, now head of a committee that has a certain task force under it, announced that there would be federal legislation providing for the protection of pensions coming within federal jurisdiction. We welcomed that announcement. As the record will show, we have asked repeatedly for the implementation of that commitment. We are sorry it has taken so long for it to be implemented but we are pleased that the legislation is now before us.

● (2:20 p.m.)

Let me say at the outset that this is the kind of legislation which can lead to misunderstanding and confusion. I would hope that the public relations services which seem to be available to the government in respect of some other matters might be used with respect to this measure.

The first type of confusion which arises quite easily concerns the kind of coverage the bill provides. Whenever a reference is made to matters coming under federal jurisdiction, particularly if those matters relate to employees, many people get the notion that we are talking about employees of the government. I hope it can be made clear that this is not the case with respect to the legislation before us. This legislation concerns itself with employees who come under the federal labour code—employees who work on the railways, in communications, banks and so on. In other words, they work mainly for employers outside the government but they are in the kinds of labour which are regarded as coming under federal jurisdiction. To put it in another way, this bill will cover employees who are within the jurisdiction of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code and the Canada Labour (Safety) Code as well as the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act. This is a confusion which in the nature of things is bound to continue, I suppose, but I hope that at least we can get things straight here in this house.

The other source of confusion in legislation of this kind is demonstrated by the fact that already workers who are affected by it are divided in their opinions about it. Some feel that this is simply legislation which locks in their pension contributions and denies them access to money that they may have regarded