

Hon. J. A. LESAGE: Honourable senators, I wish to express myself as being in agreement with the honourable leader of the government on this matter. I heartily concur in a plan for the payment of pensions to those who have spent their lives in the public service. Some men who have been members of parliament for twenty or twenty-five years, and may have been ministers of the Crown for two or three years, leave the public service much poorer financially than when they entered it.

In considering pensions for public men we should not overlook the need of providing for their widows. A man who has been in the public service for say twenty-five years may die leaving his widow without adequate means of support. I suggest that provision should be made for the widows of those who have spent a large part of their lives in the public service.

Hon. W. J. HUSHION: Honourable senators, the discussion this afternoon recalls to my mind the Judges Bill passed in this house in 1946, increasing the salaries of judges. Following the passage of that bill all the judges in Canada, except two in Montreal, got the increase. The senior of the two gentlemen I refer to has been on the bench twenty-one years, and the junior fourteen or fifteen years. I have been unable to get a satisfactory answer as to why these two men did not receive the salary increase. One reason given is that their courts have been changed. But they are still judges in the employ of the government, and will likely continue to be for some years to come. I spoke to the officials in the Department of Justice about this matter and I got only a vague answer. I may say that if that is the attitude the department chooses to take it will not help the ministers who are looking for pensions for themselves.

I have wondered whether this body had any means by which it could inquire into the reason for denying the salary increase to these two judges. It would amount to only a few thousand dollars, but I think we should know the reason.

On the question of pensions, honourable senators know that there are thousands of men and women working for the government on a temporary basis who do not participate in the pension plan except for the small deductions taken off their pay. They get no benefits such as sick leave, and they are in constant fear of being let out of the service. There are hundreds of such people in the Post Office Department and the Department of Public Works. I would sooner give consideration to pensions for such temporary employees than for lieutenant-governors or

ministers. Surely civil servants have as much right to look to the government for pensions as employees in industry have to look to their employers for similar protection. I hope that some consideration will be given to this question which I raise. I would do my share in any way I could to give the necessary help in this respect.

Hon. J. E. SINCLAIR: Honourable senators, I wish to say a few words in support of the bill, but I do not intend to discuss irrelevancies.

I support this measure to provide for an increase in the compensation of the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, but in doing so I wish to say that the increase should be larger and that there should also be increases for the lieutenant-governors of the other provinces. These gentlemen are working on the same financial basis as their predecessors of forty years ago, and we cannot expect them to continue to do so.

I think special consideration should be given to the lieutenant-governors of Quebec, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, because the capital cities of these provinces are ocean ports. When our naval vessels and those of allied countries call at one of these capital cities the ship's personnel is entertained by the lieutenant-governor. He is expected to give a ball in their honour, and in turn is entertained on board ship. Lieutenant-governors at inland capitals do not have to meet expenses of this nature, but there are other social amenities which must be performed in a manner and style which is in keeping with the dignity of the office of His Majesty's representative in the provinces.

I support the bill, but I do so believing that the increase in compensation is not large enough.

Hon. SALTER A. HAYDEN: Honourable senators, I am heartily in favour of the measure now before us. I also support the views expressed by the leader of the government and some other honourable senators who have spoken.

It must be remembered that the implications which arise from considerations of this nature have many angles. There are features of the matter which extend into the lives and homes of all the Canadian people. If we are to consider providing pensions for those who have served the country well, we must at the same time consider the position of the people whose tax contributions will make possible the distribution of monies for that purpose. Their relative position in the scheme of things has been recognized to some extent in our income tax laws, by making some allowance for con-