

position of a senator who, before his appointment as such, was a member of the House of Commons.

First: What is the position of a member of the House of Commons who is appointed to the Senate before he is eligible to receive an allowance under section II, subsection (I) of the bill; that is, after he has started to contribute but before he is eligible? The answer is, that should he be appointed to the Senate, under these circumstances he shall receive a return of his contributions without interest.

Second: What is the position of a former member of the House of Commons who ceases to be a member of that house, is eligible to receive an allowance under section 11, subsection (1), and receives it for some time prior to his appointment to the Senate? The answer is that his allowance is discontinued while he is a senator. If he resigns from the Senate the allowance will be resumed. Should he die while a senator, his estate will receive an amount equal to the difference between the total of his contributions, without interest, and the total of any amounts of allowance which had been paid or had become payable to him prior to his death.

Third: What is the position of a member of the House of Commons who is appointed to the Senate immediately upon his resignation from the House of Commons and is otherwise eligible to receive a pension under section 11, subsection (1)? The answer is that the allowance to which he is otherwise entitled is suspended immediately, and will commence at such time as he may resign from the Senate; and if he dies while a senator, his estate will receive a return of his contributions on the basis described in the reply to question 2. That is, he will be in exactly the same position as one who has received the allowance, except that, if he has received nothing, the amount to be credited to his estate will be more than he would be entitled to if he had received an allowance for a certain period.

That, so far as I know, covers all the points which seem pertinent. Personally, as one who is not affected in any way, I feel that this legislation is reasonable, just and long overdue. The honesty of the overwhelming majority of those of all parties engaged in the public life of Canada is undoubted and should be, and I believe is, a matter of national pride. That provision should be made for the needs of their later years, to the cost of which they themselves contribute, is, in my opinion, no more than simple justice. I have always been impressed by financial institutions, particularly banks. Their

employees are trained to provide the rest of us with financial advice, but the question of providing for their retirement is taken out of their hands, and from the date they commence to work for these institutions they are required to make contributions to a pension fund, and these contributions are matched by the financial institutions.

Honourable senators, I feel that the principle of this legislation is sound, and I commend it to the favourable consideration of this house.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read a third time?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** With leave of the Senate, now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

## CANADIAN SHIPS AND SEAMEN

### INQUIRY

On the notice of inquiry by Hon. Mr. Duff respecting Canadian ships and seamen:

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Honourable senators, I may say for the record that as soon as the information asked for is made available to me it will be forwarded to the honourable senator who made the inquiry.

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On the Orders of the Day:

**Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson:** Honourable senators, in case I am unable to be in the house at a later stage, I should like to take this opportunity of making a few remarks about the general work done by this house during the current session.

By the end of this session seventy-four bills, apart from divorce bills, will have been handled by the Senate. Two of these bills—the Redistribution Bill and Appropriation Bill No. 4—have not yet reached us, and three others are not being proceeded with this session. Twenty-nine bills—thirteen public bills and sixteen private bills—have been introduced in this house, and forty-five public bills have come to us for consideration from the House of Commons.

At this time I should like to say a word of appreciation about the work done by the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, which considered