

Dr. DAVIDSON: That depends on the decision of the Minister.

Mr. CARON: The Minister may decide?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Yes.

Mr. CARON: This is not decided by statute—

Dr. DAVIDSON: No.

Mr. CARON: If he has to repay 10 or 15 per cent, or whatever amount he must repay. This will reduce his salary disproportionately.

Dr. DAVIDSON: You mean—

Mr. CARON: Through an error, we have paid out a pension. On one hand, he needed it, kept it, then we ask him to repay. Then, in reimbursing the amount, we ask for a sum, say of 5, 2, 3, 4 or 10 per cent. It is the Minister who decides. There is nothing in the Act that limits the amount by a certain percentage above which the Minister cannot go?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Yes.

Mr. CARON: Do you not think that it would be wise, in an act such as this, to establish a maximum and a minimum?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Mr. Caron, it would be better to cover that aspect in the regulations which the Governor-in-Council may establish.

Mr. CARON: But, that is a bit dangerous.

Dr. DAVIDSON: That's because it's a detail, you see and according to our experience with the other laws, my own personal opinion is that the Minister will not be very harsh in deciding the amount that must be retained from each employee.

Mr. CARON: But this is required of the Minister, who will render the decision?

Dr. DAVIDSON: Oh! Yes.

Mr. CARON: If the Minister is severe by nature, he may be harsh on the person, and if the Minister is mild by nature, he could be soft.

Dr. DAVIDSON: The Minister of Finance has never been very hard.

Mr. CARON: It has happened on occasion—Thank you.

(English)

Mr. KNOWLES: Mr. Chairman, may I come back again to clause 9. There is a point that does concern a great many people in the Public Service to which I think positive assurance should be given. I have in mind Mr. Pennell's statement in November 1964, and a statement by Mr. Bryce before the Canada Pension Plan Committee to the effect that persons who put in a number of years to enable them to retire before age 65 are not affected adversely at all.

If I understand clause 9, this business of reducing the amount of a pension under the Superannuation Act applies only to a person who has reached age 65. In other words, if a person has 35 years service in at age 62 and retires at that point he draws at that point the full pension provided in the Public Service Pension Act.

Mr. CLARK: That is correct.