

Financial Administration Act

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Saltzman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to enable housewives to make contributions to and collect benefits from the Canada Pension Plan.

Since many housewives spend part of their careers working in industry as well as working at home, they should be permitted to continue their contributions to the Canada Pension Plan while at home, to ensure them a full pension at retiring age.

The bill recognizes the equal importance of work performed at home with the work performed in industry and provides housewives with the same pension opportunity.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT
AMENDMENT**

**EXTENSION OF DUTIES OF
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer) moved the first reading of Bill No. C-136, to amend the Financial Administration Act (parliamentary commissioner for administration).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, this bill is related in intent but not necessarily complementary to Bill No. C-113 which would provide for a parliamentary commissioner or ombudsman.

I believe this bill is necessitated by the tremendous number of cases coming before members of parliament regarding the administration, to which it becomes increasingly difficult to obtain adequate answers.

This bill would extend the duties of an office already in existence, that of the Auditor General. This is an office which is already organized to deal with such matters. This bill would provide authority for certain functions and duties which the Auditor General has by his own admission already assumed because of the nature of his office. This would not require a new appointment or new personnel but would merely extend the authority and would eliminate possible conflict of jurisdiction by channelling complaints through members of the federal house—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should like to remind the hon. member of the provisions of standing order 71(2), which allow an hon. member to make a short or brief statement.

[Mr. Saltzman.]

It seems to me that he is now going beyond the limitations of that standing order.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

UNION GRIEVANCES WITH C.N.R.

Question No. 20—Mr. Orlikow:

1. How many grievances have the unions representing C.N.R. employees filed with the company in each of the past three years?

2. How many of these grievances (a) have been settled (b) are still outstanding?

3. Of the grievances that were settled, how many took longer than (a) one month to be settled (b) two months to be settled?

4. Does the C.N.R. use a system of demerits for disciplining its employees, and, if so (a) when was this system established (b) was the system established unilaterally, discussed or negotiated with the unions representing C.N.R. employees?

5. Have the unions representing C.N.R. employees made representations to the company urging abolition or revision of the system of demerits and, if so, on what occasions and what was the response of the C.N.R. management?

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. Management advises that all collective agreements set out procedures to be followed in the handling and adjudication of grievances between the Company and its employees. It has not been the practice to disclose information as embraced by the questions, it being considered that such information concerns confidential matters between the signatories of the collective agreements.

The C.N.R. has 168 collective agreements covering 85,000 employees. Such information has not been compiled in the form asked, nor is it a requirement under the various requests for information and statistical material made upon the Company by the Board of Transport Commissioners or the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which publishes extensive material concerning the railways.

The traditional and accepted system of railway discipline is known as the Brown System which was inaugurated by the Company in 1923. No representations have been made for its abolition.

2. See above answer.

3. See above answer.

4. See above answer.

5. See above answer.