

members would like to know just now is where the Government stands on this, and we can get on with the bill shortly after. I do not think it is necessary to raise any point of order at this time.

Mr. KNOWLES: I do not accept the point of order. Will there be other opportunities? Is Mr. Benson in a position to say whether there could be some other committee opportunity to deal with this problem, and be in order?

Hon. Mr. BENSON: I cannot say that. This bill is to adjust pension plans of those presently employed by the Government. I cannot say more. It is a question raised by many retired public servants. When these questions are raised, the Government has to consider them. I can give no assurances of any kind.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is there any written correspondence concerning the statement that public service groups approved of the principle of integration? I am not doubting the minister's word, but all the letters I get from civil servants on the other side.

Hon. Mr. BENSON: I am told that the Advisory Committee, which consists of people on the staff side and on the Government side, made a recommendation to the Minister of Finance for integration and this was the course followed by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. KNOWLES: When did those discussions take place?

Hon. Mr. BENSON: Dr. Davidson and Mr. Clark are in a better position to answer that.

Mr. KNOWLES: I am trying to find the date when the statement was first made in the house about the pension plan. I think it was November 1964. The principle of this bill is a substantially different interpretation of that statement. Were there no discussions in the meantime or prior to 1964? This ready concurrence mystifies me.

Hon. Mr. BENSON: The recommendations were made in March 1964 to the Minister of Finance, on which this bill was designed.

Mr. KNOWLES: In the last two years, all the protests which have come to us have been otherwise.

Hon. Mr. BENSON: I never heard any protests with regard to integration or stacking. I have not had a single letter personally from the Civil Service with regard to the question.

Mr. KNOWLES: This is strange. I have not had a single letter from civil servants supporting it.

Hon. Mr. BENSON: We have different friends.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Could a statement be prepared on each of the seven other acts which are to be affected by this bill.

Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. KNOWLES: As to procedure, I should like the opinions of Dr. Davidson and Mr. Clark.

Co-Chairman Mr. RICHARD: It would be well to hear from Dr. Davidson and Mr. Clark first.