

I would like to add that we realize that all superannuated civil servants are not suffering as much as others. It is the people who are what we call the rank and file, among the low paid salary brackets, that are suffering the most. But people who were fortunate enough to be in the higher brackets are not suffering enough and are in our opinion receiving adequate pensions.

Q. Where would you draw the line?—A. At a salary of about \$2,400.

By Mr. McCusker:

Q. Does Mr. Whitehouse suggest the extra gratuity should come from the present fund or where does he suggest it should come from?—A. I do not know how it could come from the present fund. It would have to be something supplementary, say a gesture on the part of the government to help these people. We have had a lot of objection to taking anything from the fund that is supposed to be there to take care of superannuation and, unless the contribution to the fund were raised to take care of any further drain on it you could not pay any increase. It would have to be more in the nature of a grant or supplement with the idea of doing away with it if the economic conditions of the country changed. Mr. Abbott has told me many times since the legislation has come in that people may receive old age pensions at age 70 without a means test. That is true but we submit a great many retired civil servants can starve to death between 65 and 70 and I think something should be done in between the normal retiring age of 65 and 70.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. What is the range between the minimum and maximum amount the retired civil servant is receiving?

Mr. TAYLOR: I have not worked that out.

By Mr. McCusker:

Q. I was wondering if Mr. Whitehouse suggested extra contributions should be made to meet this extra gratuity?—A. I think I would like to stand up to answer that question. It is a pretty hot one I do not mind telling you. And I would like to add this: All of us who try to be leaders of the organized civil servants are forever telling them if they want greater benefits from the fund they should be prepared to contribute more to it. Unfortunately we have not got very far with their education in that respect yet. They are always asking for something and if you try to get them to give a little too it is another story. Human nature being what it is, in spite of the fact that those people all know eventually if they live they are going to be in the same spot as the retired civil servants are today, you wonder if they would be prepared to raise the contribution to make it possible for the retired civil servants to receive something now as well as increasing their pension when they retire from the Civil Service. That is something I would not like to stick my neck out about and say they would be prepared to do it.

The CHAIRMAN: Briefly the answer is "no".

By Mr. McCusker:

Q. If it is not the intention, Mr. Whitehouse, that we consider the already retired civil servants being assisted out of this fund, should we then discuss them in this place? Do they come under the present bill we are discussing? Are we not running a risk of delaying action on this?—A. Quite frankly yes, and I hesitate to bring this before the committee, but as I have said I met these people all over the country and I helped them to form an association of their own and they do have a good organization now and I promised them I would