

Mr. McILRAITH: Would the questioning take place this morning?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr. Kenneth W. Taylor, Deputy Minister of Finance, called:

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, as you know, this bill covers important questions of policy and many technical points of law and legal drafting. It has grown out of a great deal of administrative experience both of our own plan and other plans. Underlying it are some rather complex actuarial computations and principles. No one person I think would be an expert in all these things, and for that reason I have asked several of our officials to be available to the committee to answer the more technical questions and to provide the more technical information.

First I have asked Mr. Gordon L. Gullock, whom many of you know. Mr. Gullock has administered the present Act for the past thirty years. He planned to retire from the public service on March 31, but very kindly agreed to remain in the service for a few more weeks in order to assist the minister and the committee in dealing with this bill. Mr. Gullock is sitting right behind me.

We also have Mr. Henry, and Mr. Thorson of the Department of Justice. Mr. Henry has had several years experience in providing legal opinions on the present Act, and Mr. Thorson has been intimately associated with him in the drafting of this present bill.

Mr. Hart Clark is also with me. He has been co-ordinating the work of a small committee or group of officials under the minister's direction for nearly three years in the preparation of this bill.

Mr. Humphrys is the actuary for the Department of Insurance. He has been responsible for almost all of the actuarial work underlying this bill.

And finally I have asked Mr. Gagnon to attend. As a result of a civil service competition, Mr. Gagnon is the successor designate to Mr. Gullock, and will be taking over his duties a Chief of the Superannuation Branch when Mr. Gullock retires.

I have had this statement prepared. It summarizes in reasonably non-technical language, the substance of the superannuation plan covered by this bill. Perhaps I might explain that this statement was actually prepared as a first draft of the text of a pamphlet which we propose to print for the information of all public servants in the federal service when this bill becomes law. The members of the committee will, I hope, excuse some of the terms therein which perhaps are more appropriate to such a pamphlet than to a statement to be made to a committee of the House. But that is the origin of this document.

The top page is just an abbreviated table of contents which is provided for ready reference.

The Bill which is now before parliament is designed to "provide for the superannuation of persons employed in the public service of Canada" and sets forth the contributions required of those persons, the types of service, both current and prior, which might be counted for superannuation benefits and the benefits available according to the circumstances which may arise. In the following pages a description is provided of the principal features of the pension plan which will be available to those persons should parliament approve the bill in its present form. Reference to the exact wording of the Act will be necessary for the detailed application and legal interpretation of it when the bill becomes law.