

economic value and ability associated with the female sex have long since been recognized and established.

Honorable senators, I would like to say, in the words of Angus MacInnis, that I support this bill in spite of the fact that it is on behalf of women.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, my only purpose in rising is to compliment the honourable senator from Fredericton (Hon. Mrs. Fergusson) on the splendid manner in which she presented this bill. She made a forthright address, and it is most appropriate that she should do so, for over the years she has been an advocate of equal rights for women, and with equal rights comes equal pay. I suppose the book is now closed and that women will have equal pay and equal status with men in every respect. I congratulate the honourable senator on the interest she has taken on this subject over the years.

In the honourable senator's interesting address she gave us some history of the women's equal rights movement, and of its progress in Canada and other countries. She referred to the international conference which was held in Montreal a few weeks ago by the Business and Professional Women's Clubs. On that occasion more than 900 members of these clubs came to Ottawa, and their visit was arranged by the honourable senator from Fredericton.

*(Translation):*

Honourable senators, I also would like to congratulate the honourable senator from Sorel (Hon. Mrs. Jodoin) upon the excellent speech she gave us on a subject which means so much to her. I also am wholeheartedly in favour of this bill.

*(Text):*

**Hon. Mrs. Fergusson:** Honourable senators,—

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** I would point out to the house that if the honourable senator from Fredericton speaks now she will close the debate.

**Hon. Mrs. Fergusson:** Honourable senators, perhaps I should explain that when I gave a slight historical background of the women's equal rights movement I certainly did not do so as a feminist, because I do not consider that I really am one. I simply believe that women should have the same opportunities as men. Instead of laying stress on their sex and seeking special privileges on that account, the purpose of this bill is to give women equal rights with men which they do not have now, but certainly not to give them additional rights. What women are seeking is equality

of rights, not special privileges, and I feel they are well justified in supporting this bill.

May I add this? I think that when Miss Macphail refused to take all of her sessional indemnity it was not because she thought a woman should receive less indemnity than a man; I believe she felt that the indemnity for all the members was too high.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I move the third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

## PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION BILL

### SECOND READING

**Hon. William H. Golding** moved the second reading of Bill 440, an Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

He said: Honourable senators, this bill is designed to extend the application of certain provisions of the act to certain persons or groups of persons who are not at present able to benefit from it. These extensions in turn call for certain consequential amendments, and in addition the bill deals with other amendments of an administrative nature.

These amendments have been proposed by the Government after the receipt of a strong recommendation from the National Joint Council of the Public Service of Canada to the Minister of Finance. The National Joint Council, composed of representatives from the official and staff sides of the public service, recommended the removal of certain restrictive features in the Public Service Superannuation Act affecting the augmentation of pensions of those persons who may be employed in the public service after the age of 65. In the normal case at present the annual amount of the annuity of a retired civil servant is 2 per cent of the contributor's average salary over that period of ten consecutive years in which his salary is highest, multiplied by his years of service up to a maximum of 35 years. Contributions are made until the civil servant has 35 years of pensionable service to his credit, but salary earned in subsequent years is counted if it will give a higher ten-year average. These provisions apply at present, no matter at what age retirement takes place.

Certain provisions which are due to come into force on August 1, 1957, would have the