

Dr. Willard: Mr. Chairman, I think that is a bit unfair.

The Chairman: Yes, it certainly is.

Dr. Willard: If the senator would care to look at the testimony in the parliamentary committee on Old Age Security in 1950 he will see that I gave testimony on these things and indicated the difficulties involved in international comparisons. At that time we used exchange rates as a ready rule-of-thumb. Because Canada is doing quite well in this area we should not complain. But you can only use this comparison as a general guide. I think some of these factors that the honourable senator has mentioned, if you are doing a thorough study on this, should be taken into account.

The Chairman: I would like to say, Senator Phillips, that Dr. Willard has been a very devoted civil servant.

Senator Phillips: And I have not criticized him in that regard.

The Chairman: I think that you have implied criticisms, and as chairman I think I must say that I have known him for over 25 years working in that department, and being a very great dedicated Canadian.

Some hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Phillips: I take nothing away from Dr. Willard, but I find it extremely interesting that in reply to Senator Martin he has a great many beneficial figures to give, but when I ask a question he says in 1950 . . .

The Chairman: All your questions were quite different.

Senator Phillips: In making comparisons.

The Chairman: For instance, if you start to compare countries, as you have tried to do . . .

Senator Phillips: I did not try to do it. It was Senator Martin who was trying to do it.

The Chairman: Senator Martin asked very direct questions about the differential and comparisons between social security benefits. However, if you also get into tax differentials you will see that in Switzerland they pay 22 per cent on their corporate income tax. This has to be taken into account if you want to have a complete comparison between two different countries. This was the purpose of your question.

Senator Phillips: The purpose of my question was to counteract the line of questioning by Senator Martin.

The Chairman: It was quite unfair to the witness. You cannot expect the witness to have these kinds of figures to make comparisons tonight.

Senator Fergusson: Mr. Chairman, I think we have had quite enough discussion on this, and enough irrelevant and unnecessary questions from Senator Phillips. I too resent very much the criticism of the public servants we have before us, particularly Dr. Willard, whom I have known and worked with for many years, and for whom I have the greatest respect. I know that he would certainly mislead no one.

Some hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Fergusson: I think we have had quite enough of this, and I ask if we cannot now take the bill clause by clause.

Senator Phillips: I am quite willing to take the bill clause by clause, Mr. Chairman. I think Senator Fergusson has unfairly interpreted my question. That is her privilege.

Senator Fergusson: It is not "question"; it is "questions". You have been doing it all evening.

Senator Phillips: All right, then, since Senator Fergusson has ruled that it is not my privilege to ask questions, it is also my privilege not to give consent.

Senator Fergusson: I cannot rule on anything. It is the chairman who rules here. I just express myself like anybody else.

The Chairman: You are the second to go, Senator Phillips.

Senator Phillips: And I will be the first one there in the morning.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, shall we take the bill clause by clause now

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall clause 1 carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Hon. Senators: Carried.

The Chairman: Shall clause 3 carry?

Senator Martin: This is the clause that establishes the basic amount.

The Chairman: If any honourable senator has any questions to ask on any clause he or she is, of course, quite free to raise them as we go along.

Senator Carter: I have a question on the recommendation opposite, the last three or four lines.

The Chairman: Is that on clause 3?

Senator Carter: I do not know which clause it is. It is the recommendation, the last three or four lines. I suppose it means that you pay the three months retroactive in one cheque. Is that what that means?

Senator Forsey: Is that the recommendation of the Governor General?

Senator Carter: Yes. I am wondering what it means.

Senator Martin: That is the recommendation to proceed.

Dr. Willard: It is covered in clause 7, and perhaps we could deal with that when we get to clause 7.

The Chairman: Is that all right?