

decisions. I would think it would be prepared to stand in the usual way behind such decisions on policy.

In regard to this bill, we are in a field which is unique. No parliament has ever had to deal in just such a field before. You as a lawyer are well aware of the constitutional basis, a difficult basis at best. It means that if a province is not to enact legislation dealing with pensions, it must be certain that the federal legislation is of a kind that it is content to have applied to its people. It seems to me that since we have had experts dealing together on the published report of the Quebec pension plan and the published report of Bill No. C-75 it is obviously a compromise plan on which both governments have gone a very long way to meet. It would seem to me that as reasonable men and a reasonable woman in this committee you, of course, notwithstanding your point of departure, will follow that same line of reasoning. I am not really foreseeing that there will be great divergence on questions of principle by the time you conclude these hearings.

Mr. AIKEN: I think the minister confirmed in my mind exactly the point I was trying to make.

Hon. Mr. McCUTCHEON: I have several questions which I would like to put.

Hon. Mr. CROLL: May I just say at this moment that if there is a line of questioning being taken at present, as has been by Mr. Aiken, maybe some of us would like to follow it up before we divert to another line of questioning. If Mr. McCutcheon's question is not in line with the same trend of thought, I would suggest that we could exhaust the other trend first. I do not know what Senator McCutcheon is going to ask but I suggest that the Chairman direct those of us who want to question the minister along the same line as were Mr. Aiken's questions.

Mr. CHATTERTON: The answer is for members to ask supplementary questions.

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): We will first deal with Senator McCutcheon. Does he want to proceed along the line of questions asked or does he want to ask something else?

Hon. Mr. McCUTCHEON: I have several questions.

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): Are you willing to yield for the time being?

Hon. Mr. McCUTCHEON: My questions grow out of questions already asked by Mr. Aiken and the others who preceded him.

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): Do you wish to follow along the same line?

Mr. FRANCIS: I think Senator McCutcheon has a question which is related to this line of questions.

Hon. Mr. McCUTCHEON: My first question follows from the previous questions. The minister has said that Quebec is the only province that has stated its intention to operate its own plan. Nevertheless the bill contemplates that all the other provinces, or any of the other provinces, may opt out within 30 days after the legislation becomes effective. Assuming that five provinces decided to operate their own plan, would that affect the operation of the Canada pension plan in the minister's opinion?

Miss LAMARSH: It depends on which five provinces, of course. If members of the committee look at the actuarial report, they will see it is prepared on the basis that nine provinces are in the plan. These are the assumptions which were made. Certainly the figures would be quite different if some provinces opted out, depending on which these would be.

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