

*Canada Pension Plan*

commission will be made available if required to the province of Quebec. In that way a master index will be made available.

**Mr. Ricard:** Then the answer of the minister is in the affirmative.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Plourde:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Last year he wanted to oblige school teachers to get numbers. They were told it was compulsory. Following representations made to me, I asked the minister about it and he told me that it was not compulsory, that people were left entirely free.

A year later a new department altogether tries to force the workers to obtain numbers, otherwise they will not be able to get their pensions. In other words, all means are good to reach certain ends. One of these days people will no longer go under a name but a number.

Such a piece of legislation is extremely pleasing to N.D.P. members because they are socialists. For them, human beings do not count; they are merely numbers. The Liberals are drifting more and more towards socialism. They are seeking to designate people by numbers. One day everyone will be called by a number instead of by a name.

How is it that a new department now seeks to force people to register under the social security number set up by another department?

Personally, I do not have a social security number and I do not want one. Consequently, I will not be able to get a pension. How do you explain that? How is the government going to proceed?

Do not say that registration is not compulsory. Under this scheme, it does become compulsory. Put your cards on the table and be consistent.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Prittie:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest to the hon. member for Quebec West that you could not pay Social Credit dividends without numbers either.

**Mr. Nasserden:** I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue which arises out of a statement he made a few minutes ago. I wonder whether he could elaborate on his statement that an individual could draw benefits both from a provincial and from a federal plan.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, there will be two plans in operation in Canada of which we presently know. If there is no agreement,

[*Mr. MacEachen.*]

then as provided in clause 82 of the bill which we discussed and passed this afternoon people might get two cheques from two jurisdictions. If, however, the agreement as provided for in clause 82 is entered into between provinces which do not participate in the Canada pension plan and the federal government, there would be only one cheque.

**Mr. Nasserden:** What I am getting at is, how could a person get two cheques?

**Mr. Benson:** A person could get two cheques if there were two pension plans operating in Canada, for example one in Quebec and another pension plan covering the rest of Canada. If he contributed to the Quebec plan for 15 or 20 years of his working life and to the Canada pension plan for the other contributory years, he might ordinarily have cheques coming to him from two different pension plans if no agreement was reached under section 82. However, because of clause 82, if an agreement is entered into under that clause, he would only receive one cheque, because there would be an agreement between the government of Canada and the province of Quebec for reimbursement for such payments.

**Mr. Watson (Assiniboia):** Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask how this clause affects the farmer who keeps no books, and a great many of them do not. I have reference to the farmer who does not want a number. Is he assigned a number?

**Mr. Benson:** Clause 100, subclause 3 requires that he apply for a number. I am informed that farmers generally in Canada are law abiding citizens and file their income tax returns each year, honestly recording their incomes for my department. These farmers will file along with these returns a pension plan return on which they will calculate the amount they have to contribute.

**Mr. Watson (Assiniboia):** I have a supplementary question. Now that we have established that this number is compulsory, what happens in the event a farmer hires a casual worker for harvest work, which in the normal course would last two or three weeks but because of bad weather extends over the 30 day period, making it compulsory for that farmer to apply within 30 days for a number? The farmer knows that the man will not be working for a continuous or lengthy period of time, but will leave his employment as soon as the harvest is completed. What happens in this event?