

at which time he dealt with the provincial representatives who are responsible for administering the plan in the provinces. He also invited Ontario where he had the same type of discussions. As you know, there are a number of different kinds of schemes in which the provincial governments are the employers, in the sense that they pay an employer's portion. On all these occasions in respect of Mr. Clark's discussions, the suggestions which were made were warmly met, and we have not had any indication from any of the provinces to the effect that they consider integration of the plans in which they are the employers impossible.

Hon. Mr. McCUTCHEON: They do not have to come in under the plan.

Miss LAMARSH: They invited Mr. Clark to come and enter into these discussions, and as I say they appeared to be pleased. Certainly anyone who is an employer does not have to come in; that was the whole point in the trip made by Mr. Clark. All I can represent to you is that their reaction was favourable, and that they felt integration was completely possible.

Hon. Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, probably I know less about this complicated piece of legislation than does anyone else in this room. Although I find the questioning and the discussion most interesting, I really cannot bring much judgment to bear on it. I would appreciate it very much if the committee could get on to a clause by clause study of this bill. I think after we have done this, the minister might reappear to answer questions and the questions and the answers themselves could be dealt with by all of us in a more enlightened fashion, and with a more thorough grasp of the significance of the various clauses. I would suggest that if possible the committee move on to the clause by clause study of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN (*Hon. Mrs. Fergusson*): I do not think the steering committee considered we would be taking up the clause by clause study right away until after we have heard from some officials from the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The Co-CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): I think that is what he means.

Mr. SCOTT: Surely at this stage we are in the position where we can discuss matters of policy with the minister and the attitudes generally concerning the plan. I am sorry Mr. Lang does not understand what we are getting at. However, I still reiterate what I said earlier; that is, I think a pretty unusual attitude has been taken when you are bringing about these basic changes and yet seem to feel no responsibility for carrying them through.

Miss LAMARSH: Again you use the word "responsibility"; no jurisdiction is the situation. I would like to say, Madam Chairman, that I would be happy to come back before this committee any time you choose to call me. Since you are dealing mainly with the Canada pension plan, perhaps after that has been discussed, the question of integration may be raised again, and I would be very happy to appear.

Mr. CANTELON: I was very interested in the comment regarding the financial phase of integration, but there are many other phases of integration which I am afraid are going to be under strong pressures if the attitude is that they must just integrate on their own with the Canada pension plan. Over the years, some of these schemes have worked out certain terms which in many cases are phrased on the age at superannuation. Undoubtedly, with the Canada pension plan coming into effect, these will have to be modified very drastically. They may not have to be modified very drastically, but I would think that would be the case. From what I heard yesterday, I gather that the government is prepared to adopt a very flexible attitude toward these private plans in respect of how they fit in with the federal plan.