

call it miserable, or insufficient, or any other term which would seem appropriate—"we are going to give you permanent security by way of superannuation for yourself and your dependents for all time." I do not believe that is a proper procedure. The people of Canada are not looking to parliament to create special privileges for a limited number of individuals.

I have the highest respect for those who accept diplomatic posts to serve their country abroad, and I recognize the fact that they must have the highest qualifications. But I do not believe we should give them lifetime security in this fashion, rather than by adequate compensation while they serve. I can easily envisage an appointment to a high office in the diplomatic corps—a political appointment, if you like—involving a prominent and a capable man. After serving only a short time he could retire from that service, reassume his previous vocation and perhaps earn an added income because of the experience he had gained, the contacts he had made, and the business relationships he had established while in the diplomatic service. Yet this man, upon returning to his earlier vocation, would have security thrust upon him through the beneficence of the government of Canada, rather than through the position of merit he may have earned while in the diplomatic service.

A condition of this kind is not fair to those who serve in the Department of External Affairs and other branches of the government service and who in those years have acquired wide experience and knowledge, but who for many years have been paying for their own superannuation. Placed alongside these civil servants would be this new group of those from outside the service who on retirement would be entitled to superannuation benefits, for themselves and their dependents for the rest of their days. There may be individual cases which merit support, but in my view those cases should be compensated by way of salary while in the service rather than by superannuation as a means of security for the rest of their lives and those of their dependents. While a few cases should receive treatment of this kind, I believe that in adopting this principle we would be setting a bad example, and in the eyes of the rest of the service would be establishing a preferred class who would be given special treatment.

I do not believe the people of Canada want their members of parliament to set up special legislation establishing superannuation for a limited few when there are so many more who need extra help to a much greater degree.

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words on the resolution before the house. Hon. members of this group do not intend to enter the debate on the resolution stage, chiefly because of the insufficiency of the information set out in the resolution. In view of the fact however that certain statements have been made by hon. members on both sides of the house, I should like to indicate our desire to reserve our opinion until we see the actual details of the bill.

We agree there are cases in which special consideration should be given. In the main however I believe we must follow the point made by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Boucher) with respect to the superannuation plan among civil servants. We should have regard also to the extent to which we in parliament are prepared to go in respect of superannuation benefits and old age pensions for Canadians generally.

With regard to the insufficiency of information in the resolution, I respectfully suggest to the government that this is a practice which ought not to be continued. Beauchesne's Rules and Forms states definitely that care should be taken in the drafting of resolutions preceding money bills to cover all the points. Only a few days ago the committee of the whole got into quite a dilemma because of a resolution drafted along lines similar to this one. The government in drafting resolutions should take care to give more details, and particularly to fix in the resolution the maximum amount of money to be spent under the bill based on the resolution.

Having said this much may I add that we reserve the expression of our opinions until the bill is before us.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. St. Laurent thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 412, to provide superannuation benefits for senior appointees of the Department of External Affairs serving outside Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING VETERANS' PREFERENCE, INCREASED SALARIES FOR COMMISSIONERS, ETC.

Hon. COLIN GIBSON (Secretary of State) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Civil Service Act to provide, inter alia a