

up and take part in a discussion on this bill. Let me say at the outset that I support the bill. I have listened with great interest to the debate that has taken place. My main object in rising is to make a general observation which I have been wanting to make for some time. It is that the publication in the press of what appear to be very large salary increases creates in the mind of the public, or certainly in the minds of certain segments of the population, a totally wrong impression. It has been brought to my attention in several instances, as no doubt it has been brought to the attention of other honourable senators, that people are amazed at what are considered to be the enormous salaries paid to the judiciary as compared with people in other walks of life. However, anybody who listened to the explanation of the new Income Tax Act as outlined to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce today and who heard the ramifications and implications of the new bill, which is shortly to be presented to us, will agree that after that bill becomes law, the effect on these salaries will be such that only a very moderate amount will be left. I think many people are inclined to forget when they read about these large salaries that by the time the income tax has taken a bite at them, what is left is quite small indeed.

I fully sympathize with the remarks made by honourable Senator Beaubien, but I have to agree with the Minister of Justice that to attempt to deal with that situation would open quite a can of worms. Not a week passes that I do not receive a letter from some official or veteran of World War I or World War II complaining bitterly about the inadequacy of his pension in view of present day living costs.

What I say in connection with the public service and veterans also applies to business and industry. I know of many people who have retired from business life with pensions which at the time of their retirement seemed to be quite adequate but which today are totally inadequate. While I sympathize with what Senator Beaubien has said, I think that any one trying to deal adequately with such situations would find himself in very real trouble indeed.

Hon. Edward M. Lawson: Honourable senators, I share some of the views expressed by the honourable senator who has just spoken, and while I commend the Minister of Justice for preparing and presenting this bill, I am concerned that it does not contain any provision for more frequent review of salaries paid to judges. I was somewhat troubled when the suggestions for changes in judges' salaries were made at the same time as the suggested adjustments in the indemnities for members of the House of Commons and members of the Senate. We accept the philosophy that the judiciary should be separate from and independent of the executive, and therefore I feel that the sins of politicians should not flow to the bench. I remember reading an editorial in a Vancouver newspaper which pointed out that we in Ottawa were conscious of inflation because, whereas we had voted a 50 per cent increase for ourselves, we voted an increase of only 42 per cent for the judges. I do not think we should allow ourselves to fall into a situation where any news-

paper can make such a comment. Each situation should be judged properly on its own merits. Perhaps I might remind the newspaper that made that criticism that they in turn gave their own employees a 62 per cent adjustment, and newspapers do not have the tradition of contributing to the inflationary spiral through overpaying their employees.

Honourable senators, in Canada we have a fine judicial system which we unfortunately have a tendency to take for granted. It was my privilege not many weeks ago to take part in a conference of judges in Vancouver where the judges made it quite clear that their main concern was how best to serve the interests of the people of Canada. They did not speak about the problems of pensions or salaries. So it seems to me that if there is no vehicle by which they can make these problems known to us, then there is a responsibility on the members of this house and on the members of the other house to ensure that these things are kept under regular review to ensure that what should be done is done. If there is a shortage of courts we have a responsibility to see that they are corrected. If there is a shortage of judges, we have the responsibility to see that appropriate steps are taken to fill these vacancies. There should also be a regular review of judges' salaries to ensure that they are adjusted properly at the appropriate times. I might mention that I said to the judges that I did not object when a plumber made a higher income than judges because after all a plumber had to make house calls! However, when other trades receive higher increases and higher salaries than judges, an adjustment in their salaries is long overdue.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that we should seek some sort of annual or biennial review and preserve the excellent judicial system which we now have.

Hon. Mr. Cook: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: I must remind honourable senators that if the honourable Senator Cook speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: If he wants to close it.

Hon. Mr. Cook: I am delighted with Senator Flynn's suggestion that this bill should be sent to committee, for I must confess that my own answers to many of the questions asked would be quite inadequate. Let me also add that I am very glad to welcome Senator Walker to my side. I say this because if he were not on my side, then the questions that he would ask would be even more difficult to answer.

In reply to Senator Beaubien I must admit that the only reference to pensions in the bill is to be found in clause 10 on page 11 which grants an annuity to the widow and which states that:

the Governor in Council may grant to each child of such judge an annuity equal to one-fifth of the annuity granted to the widow of that judge pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1),

I do not know in fact, but I assume that the pension will be increased with the increase in salaries.

In answer to Senator Forsey, with whose remarks I entirely agree, the bill says that the retirement age of county court judges will be lowered from 75 to 70