

Employment in Public Service

finding that other disqualifying factors are announced later.

I am happy to note that the bill has been amended to preclude discrimination on the basis of sex. I suspect it will take more than passage of this bill to remove such discrimination, for it is built deeply into the folkways of this part of North America. All the same, I am happy to see this provision in the bill. People occasionally complain to me that a lady is working somewhere but should not be working because her husband is working or she is middle-aged or some younger man should have the job. Many excuses are put forward why a woman should be removed from her job. I have always felt that if a woman is qualified to do the job and performs her duty satisfactorily she has every right to her position.

● (6:10 p.m.)

I was interested to hear the remarks of the hon. member for York South about the desirability of political activity in the civil service. I find that these remarks contradict earlier remarks made by the hon. member and by many other members of his party. Every time a judicial bill comes before the house we are treated to a lengthy dissertation about the horrible system under which judicial appointments are made. We are told that they are made on the basis of past political activity. If the hon. member was in the chamber he would at once leap to his feet and say he was not talking about that at all. The point is that political activity casts doubt occasionally on the validity of an appointment to the judiciary. In like manner I would expect that political activity of an entirely open nature would tend to cast doubt upon the validity of subsequent promotions in the civil service. If a promotion to the judiciary is suspect on the ground of political activity—goodness knows we have been told as much over and over again from the same quarter of the house and I really am not in disagreement with the observations which have been made in this regard—then overt political activity on the part of civil servants would cast doubt on the validity of some of the promotions which might be made within the service and thus reduce the usefulness of some people who might have been quite qualified to move into new positions.

Nor can I believe that it is a great imposition for a member of the public service to be required to seek permission before running for office. I know that at the present time it is

[Mr. Johnston.]

frequently the practice for members of the public service to resign on such occasions. In many cases this enforced resignation has been an excellent stepping stone from which to launch a campaign; perhaps such a start is not altogether detrimental to success in politics.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 6—*Delegation to deputy head.*

Mr. Bell (Carleton): This clause deals with delegation and I wish to say that as far as I am concerned it carries on division.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 12—*Selection standards.*

Mr. Bell (Carleton): A brief comment on clause 12. In committee I expressed my concern about the importation into the merit system of standards which I believe to be extraneous to it. Take, for example, such matters as age and residence. I believe these are in the nature of job requisites. If residence is of importance it should be specified under clause 13; it is not, in fact, a matter of merit. Indeed, it is entirely irrelevant to the question of merit.

I made my position on this point clear when I was speaking in relation to another group of subjects. I contended that the commission is introducing into the concept of merit factors which properly belong to the specifications which should be laid out for the job itself. On this occasion I merely wish to express the reservation which I argued in detail last April. My position is unchanged.

May I say that the inclusion of subclause 3 constitutes a great improvement in the bill and is something for which the special joint committee deserves credit. It does give opportunity for proper consultation between the commission and the bargaining agents in regard to the matters enumerated and I hope there will be the fullest and frankest co-operation between the commission and the bargaining agent in this respect.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 15 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 16—*Consideration of applications.*

Mr. Bell (Carleton): On this clause I merely wish to say that I am not fully satisfied that the provisions for veterans preference are