

*Pensions*

unfinished piece of business in our public service pension arrangements which must not continue to remain unfinished.

As I say, Mr. Chairman, I welcome the commitment which the minister made on June 17. I hope it will not be long before that matter is before the joint committee on the public service, so that that committee will be in a position to make an appropriate recommendation back to the House of Commons. As the hon. member for Carleton said, we may wish to say something on a few of the clauses as we go through the bill; but precisely because we have had such a thorough discussion of this legislation in the joint committee, it need not take as long as it might otherwise have taken to deal with this important bill here in committee of the whole house.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 8 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 9—*Deduction from annuity.*

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, this is the clause about which there has been much discussion in the joint special committee. I have already referred to the situation, particularly as it relates to those civil servants at present in the service who have been given the commitment that there would be no diminution of benefits. When these people remain off the labour market after age 65, this is true. But if a person with a small pension takes a job which qualifies him for the Canada Pension Plan, then he does not enjoy the benefits which prior to the passing of the Canada Pension Plan he would have received.

This matter was discussed in detail in the committee. I have no desire to reargue it at all, but I do want to record at this time the feeling of the house in this connection, and I therefore propose to move an amendment to this clause. I recognize that the amendment would not be fully adequate, but it would at least express the opinion of hon. members.

There is one other matter in connection with clause 9 to which I should like to refer. Subclause (4) brings within the purview of the act those who served with certain international organizations or in civilian war service. Many members of the house, but more particularly my hon. friend from Halifax, Mr. McCleave, were responsible in 1961, and perhaps earlier than that, for bringing to the attention of this house the position of the civilian firefighters. This is a case of casting bread upon the waters; it has now fully

[Mr. Knowles.]

returned, and I want to pay tribute to what the hon. gentleman from Halifax did at that time, which has been productive now.

Without arguing the particular situation further, Mr. Chairman, I move:

That subsection (1d) of subclause (1) of clause 9 be deleted.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the amendment which has just been moved by the hon. member for Carleton is to meet the point that I raised a few moments ago. This amendment was moved in the joint committee and was lost there, and I do not know whether it will do any better here. In the meantime, I wonder whether the government has come up with any other way to cope with this problem?

Let me say again that I recognize that years from now, when everyone is on the same footing, the way the clause is framed might be quite adequate. It may even be adequate now for new employees who are coming into the public service. However, despite all the excellent arguments which were made by the very competent experts the committee had before it, it seems to me that present employees who knew before integration came into effect that they could retire at the end of their 35 years, even if they were only 60 or 62 years of age, and draw their superannuation for life without any reduction, are being short changed in being presented with a formula which reduces their pensions at age 65.

Surely those who were in the service before this integration bill was introduced should be given the kind of protection that this amendment proposes. I see difficulties in the amendment, but as I said in committee, unless the government has come up with some other way of meeting this problem and establishing complete fairness, I shall have to vote for the amendment.

• (8:10 p.m.)

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Chairman, there is no point in repeating arguments that were put forward to the committee with respect to this amendment. I should like to say that this matter was agreed to by the advisor committee. The joint council of the Civil Service Association was fully informed of this matter and was, I presume, in agreement with this measure because no objection was raised.

Really, what the amendment is trying to do is amend the Canada Pension Plan. Anyone who retires under the Canada Pension Plan and continues in employment, and has a