

Miss LAMARSH: It was my understanding that your steering committee would determine the course you would follow.

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): I think, while your point is very well founded, it is a little early in the deliberations of this committee to be considering it. Senator Croll, I believe you are next.

Hon. Mr. CROLL: No, please go ahead.

Mr. FRANCIS: Surely we can discuss the principle of integration. But surely there is a limit about how far we can go with details concerning amendments to the Civil Service Act which will have to be adopted by parliament. I think the discussion before this committee should be in terms of the principles of the existing private plans.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Chatterton has said that because this is a government plan, people would be watching very closely what the federal government does with the superannuation plan.

Miss LAMARSH: It should be appreciated that the government must meet representatives of the organizations in the civil service who must approve of it. These are the contracting parties, just as we would anticipate that any other employer would do this, and would have to accept the government's proposal before legislation was submitted to parliament.

Hon. Mr. CROLL: I think we are talking about integrating other plans into the Canada pension plan rather than integrating the Canada pension plan into other plans.

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): That is why I suggested to Mr. Chatterton that he was probably previous with this type of questioning.

(*Translation*)

Mr. PERRON: Considering that a while ago it was given to understand that consultations, with a wide enough arrangement between the federal authority and especially with the Quebec authority which seems to want exclusion from the said plan, it was also defined that subsequently there had been consultations with the other provinces. Since witnesses will be called, will it be possible to have officials of the Quebec government as witnesses, who may define here Quebec's philosophy with regard to this pension plan?

(*Text*)

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): I do not think we should ask this type of question of the minister. I think it is something which the committee itself should decide upon, that is, we are going to call, or whether we want to call provincial officials or not. That is something we should decide. I do not think the minister would be prepared to answer that type of question.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Such a decision would have to come from the federal government.

Miss LAMARSH: Quebec is not a foreign state. We have direct mail between Ottawa and Quebec city.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Should not the request come from the provincial government to the federal government?

The CHAIRMAN (*Mr. Cameron*): We have not got to that bridge yet, so let us not cross it until we come to it.

Miss LAMARSH: It is up to the committee, if you want to invite them. As part of the government I certainly could not require Quebec officials to come, nor could the Prime Minister of Canada. Only the premier of Quebec could do that. He is the only person who could do it.

Mr. CHATTERTON: It would require the government of Canada to invite them.