

Canada Pension Plan

All the federal government can do in this regard is co-operate and make available to most of the carriers, 75 per cent of which belong to the trust companies association of Canada, all the information they ask for. They may need this information in respect of their associated employers and employees. We expect this will be a reciprocal arrangement and that the provinces and private companies will make similar information available to us in order that necessary adjustments can be made with ease.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to hold up the passage of this very complicated bill unduly. I think it is one of the most complicated pieces of legislation that we have dealt with for some time. To put it mildly, I think it is unduly complicated.

The minister has spoken of trust and insurance companies in terms of 75 per cent and 25 per cent, as related to 5,000 plans which now exist outside of the provisions of the proposed Canada pension plan. I should like to remind the minister that many farmers will automatically be excluded from participation in this pension plan because of earnings which fall below the provisional requirements. One other category of worker who will not be covered by this plan is that category covered by other pension plans. As I understand the situation, the decision in respect of integration rests entirely upon the employer. What is the minister doing to put this plan in terms which will allow these many existing pension plans to be integrated with it? She says that she is making all the necessary information available, but I suggest that is not enough.

As I understand the terms of this plan, it is not completely actuarially sound, as are most other pension plans.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, let me stop the hon. member at this point. This plan is actuarially sound, despite the attack made recently upon it by an actuary, which was not based on actuarial grounds.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Chairman, I am not referring to any specific actuary. I am suggesting that there is a windfall associated with this plan. This was admitted by the Minister of National Revenue a few days ago. Certain age groups will receive something as a result of this plan which they will not have paid for and which they will not have expected.

There are thousands upon thousands of teachers in Canada, to use them as an ex-

[Miss LaMarsh.]

ample, who are now paying into pension plans. Will the establishment of this pension plan impose an additional tax upon the municipalities which are now contributing to these teachers' pension plans? Will this pension plan impose an additional tax upon those municipalities which in turn will impose an additional tax on the taxpayers of this country?

Mr. Chairman, I am sure we are all aware of the fact that the basic problem confronting the taxpayer today is the extent of the tax burden now imposed upon them. It is our job as legislators to gauge this tax burden carefully and to decide whether it is too high or whether it can carry a little more weight. Will the increased burden placed upon the taxpayers of this country as a result of this pension plan be the straw that will break the camel's back? That is the question we must answer.

I have taken a very serious and long look at this question. I should like to hear an answer to it from the government. I should like to hear some explanation in this regard, because I am not satisfied with the information given by the minister to the effect that all the available and necessary information will be made available. This pension plan should be designed in such a way that by its normal administration all the available statistical information will be provided to the trust and insurance companies, and others in this field. It should be designed in such a way that special considerations can be given in respect of pension plans already in existence in order to facilitate integration, and in such a way the necessity for taxpayers in Canada to carry the extra burden created by this plan could be obviated.

One other serious question which has confronted me during my consideration of this plan is whether individuals now contributing to existing pension plans will, following the adoption of this plan, have to make additional contributions. Will we be creating an additional tax burden by the adoption of this pension plan in its present state? I use the word "additional" advisedly and in the way in which I feel it should be used. Using the example of teachers across Canada again, I believe that we will be placing an additional burden upon the municipalities in Canada, because the municipalities will have to pay the 3.6 per cent contribution. Those municipalities will have to pay that amount in the form of the employer contribution and in the form of increased wages to the teachers. I