hope it would tie two or more such plans together at the top so that you will have the same decisions with respect to benefits, contribution rates, eligibility and so on and all decisions will be uniform right across the country.

Mr. Monteith: If a tribunal is appointed under the Old Age Security Act to review a case, does a majority of two out of three carry the decision?

Miss LaMarsh: Yes.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 84 and 85 agreed to.

On clause 86—*Authority to determine questions of law or fact.*

Mr. Monteith: Clause 86 provides that a review committee and the pension appeals board shall have the authority to determine any question of law or fact. I am not a lawyer but I presume they will have the power to determine the facts of the case with regard to whether or not somebody received so much money and whether or not the figures on their sheet in the office of the Department of National Health and Welfare or that of the Department of National Revenue, whichever it may be, are correct. I assume this committee will determine these particular matters of fact?

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, that is correct. The only thing is that on the question of age there can only be an appeal to the review committee. There are no legal principles involved and therefore a question of age can only be taken as far as the review committee and not beyond to the pension appeals board.

Mr. Monteith: Subclause (3) of clause 86 provides:

Notwithstanding anything in this part, no appeal lies to the pension appeals board from a decision of a review committee as to the age of any applicant or beneficiary.

I do not know whether I understand exactly what that means. Is it as to age only?

Miss LaMarsh: The minister says that someone is 64 and they say they are 65. They may appeal that to review committee and the review committee has the final say on the question of age.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 87, 88 and 89 agreed to.

On clause 90—*Presumption as to death of contributor or beneficiary.*

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Chairman, I wish you would not try to rush.

The Chairman: Perhaps I should mention to the hon. member that clauses 87 and 88 had already been carried so actually the Chair called only two clauses.

Mr. Barnett: Would the minister explain briefly the effect of subclause (2) of clause 90? From my reading of it I am not quite clear whether it means that if a person in fact did not die what is provided for in subclause (1) is null and void.

Miss LaMarsh: That is right. If he shows up again and he is not dead, then the certificate the minister has given is cancelled, but you do not go back and try to collect any money that has been paid. It is not refundable. The purpose is simply to confirm the fact. After all, a person cannot have a continuing certificate that he is dead if he is walking around.

Mr. Barnett: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I could not quite follow the purport of the minister's answer. If a person is presumed to have died and is later discovered not to have died, does this mean that the effect of the certificate issued is thereby null and void?

Miss LaMarsh: Yes.

Mr. Barnett: That is what I could not understand.

Miss LaMarsh: It is null and void for the future, but you do not go back and try to collect all the money you have paid as the result of deeming him to be dead. If Mr. A is deemed to be dead and his wife gets certain benefits, and then Mr. A turns up alive you cancel the certificate but you do not go back and try to collect from Mrs. A what she has received by way of benefits.

Mr. Barnett: I am glad to have that explanation because I was thinking it was the other way around. If Mr. A had died he would not be able to collect certain benefits, but if Mr. A had been presumed to be dead and was later found to be alive I was wondering whether he would be entitled to the benefits to which he would have been entitled if he had not been presumed to be dead.

Miss LaMarsh: If he had been presumed to be dead and had left no survivors there would be no benefits payable to him that he would need to worry about, but it he shows up again