

It is not necessary to refer in detail to the general increase in cost of operation. I simply lay before the house the proposed amendment to the act, and give the reasons for it.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable members, I do not propose to speak on the bill itself, but may I say that this is one measure that should have been introduced in this house at the commencement of the session. We could have investigated the whole dispute between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the private broadcasting stations.

I have no great knowledge of the subject of radio broadcasting, but I have always felt that one broadcasting body which is in competition with other stations should not be in a position to control them. I do not propose to raise that question now; but it is my belief that at the beginning of the session this house should have conducted an investigation in that field. Whether the House of Commons chose to listen to us or not, we could have reported the true situation to the people of Canada. As it is, I defy anybody to follow intelligently the recent discussion in another place.

I am quite willing that the motion be carried on division.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time, on division.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators, when shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Now.

The motion was agreed to, the bill was read the third time, and passed on division.

MILITIA PENSION BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved second reading of Bill 456, an act to amend the Militia Pension Act (Disablement Pension).

He said: Honourable senators, the purpose of this bill is to correct a drafting error in the amendment made to the Militia Pension Act in 1946, and which discriminated against certain disabled soldiers in the matter of pension rights. As the act is at present drafted it provides that a soldier to be eligible for pension must have served for more than ten years, and been a contributor to the pension fund, and he must have been rendered incapable of pursuing continuous gainful employment. This provision has not only been found impractical from an administrative point of view, but is regarded as wrong in principle.

It is proposed to alter the provision so that a soldier, if his disability prevents him from continuing his military career, will be eligible for pension regardless of whether or not he is able to support himself in some other occupation. The change will affect some thirty-six disabled soldiers who at present are unable to get their pensions. The scale of pension remains unchanged, at the rate of one-fiftieth of the soldier's average pay and allowances over the previous six years multiplied by the number of years of his service.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators, when shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Now.

The motion was agreed to, the bill was read the third time, and passed.

PRINTING OF PARLIAMENT

SECOND REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the second report of the Joint Committee on the Printing of Parliament.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS moved concurrence in the report.

The motion was agreed to.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

THIRD REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the third report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Hon. L. M. GOUIN moved concurrence in the report.

He said: Honourable senators, this subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms is so important that I believe I should offer a few words of explanation. I do not think that this is the proper time to enter into any detailed examination of the problems which were referred to our joint committee; but it was very clear from the beginning that it will be impossible for us at the present session to do more than work of a purely preparatory nature. The members designated by the Senate to serve on the committee were appointed on June 3. We have simply laid the foundation of a further study of these very important questions, and our practical conclusion is to recommend that early next ses-