

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Friday, June 17, 1966

The CO-CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Honourable senators and members of the House of Commons, this is our first regular meeting to deal with Bill C-193. As you were advised on Wednesday last, the first witness to appear before us is the Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable E. J. Benson. I will ask him to appear before the committee now to give us a statement in explanation of this bill.

Honourable E. J. Benson, Minister of National Revenue: Gentlemen, first of all, I should like to thank the members of the Senate and the House of Commons who are serving on this committee. You have undertaken a task that will be fairly difficult. This is the first of four bills. It is, however, unrelated to the three other bills you will be considering, because they are bills to institute collective bargaining in the Civil Service, and call for a re-organization of the Civil Service Commission which will become the Public Service Commission, and a re-organization of the Treasury Board.

The bill before you, in respect of your consideration of which there is a time limit, is a bill to adjust the pension plans of the public service so that they may fit in with the Canada Pension Plan. The bill has several other purposes. It deals with the wartime service of military personnel and also the question of the forfeiture of pensions by retired military people when they come to work in the Public Service of Canada.

Mr. Hart Clark and Dr. Davidson are with me today, and, with your permission, I should like to have them go through the bill with you in detail and clean away matters of interpretation—that is, deal with it clause by clause, or in whichever way the committee decides. It might then be useful if you could reserve any points on which you wish to question me, especially in respect to Government policy, and I will come back to the committee after all the various intricacies of the bill are cleared away. At that time I shall be pleased to talk to you about Government policy on particular matters included in the bill upon which some of you might want to ask questions. Indeed, some matters have already been raised in the House of Commons. At that time I shall be quite prepared to make a statement.

It is my understanding also that you are going to hear representations from retired officers' associations and from some of the civil service associations. If it meets with your approval, I would prefer to come back after you have heard these representations, and then answer questions relating to Government policy.

If this would be permitted, I would like to introduce to you Mr. Hart Clark and Dr. George F. Davidson, who are here. They are both very familiar with the bill. Then we can proceed as you see fit. Perhaps then you could clear up a