

Questions and Answers under Standing Order 27

1. Superannuation/retiring age provisions

Mr L. M. Abbott asked –

- (a) Is any provision at present made, or required to be made, for an illness or age superannuation for the Archbishop of Sydney?
- (b) If so, at what age do the benefits commence to apply?
- (c) Has the Synod power to require any part of the See Endowment income to be applied for this purpose?
- (d) Has the Synod power to fix a retiring age for the Archbishop?
- (e) Has this Special Session of Synod power to make any superannuation and/or retiring age provisions, before a moral contract is made with the Archbishop-elect by offering him the See?

To which the President replied –

- (a) & (b) The 'Archbishop's Superannuation Ordinance, 1918,' provides –

'1. When an Archbishop of Sydney shall attain the age of 70 years or shall before attaining that age produce to the Standing Committee of the Diocese a Certificate of two legally qualified medical practitioners approved by the said Standing Committee that he is permanently incapacitated for duty or shall satisfy the said Standing Committee that for other reasons it is in the best interests of the Diocese that he should resign his office as Archbishop, the said Standing Committee shall (at the request of the said Archbishop) declare him to be superannuated on the conditions hereinafter provided. Provided that if the See shall at any time be declared vacant under the provisions of Determination VI of the General Synod, Session 1891, the Standing Committee shall declare the Archbishop superannuated under the provisions of this Ordinance. Standing Committee in this Ordinance means the members for the time being holding office under the provisions of the Standing Committee Ordinance of 1897 or any Ordinance amending or taking the place of the same.

2. An Archbishop who shall have been so declared to be superannuated and shall have resigned the See shall (subject to the provisions hereinafter contained) be entitled during his life to an allowance at the rate of £750 per annum and such allowance shall be payable from such funds as may by Ordinance of Synod be made or be declared to be available for that purpose.

3. In the event of an Archbishop superannuated under this Ordinance being appointed to any Office or Offices the total emoluments of which shall exceed £20 per annum, the amount of his superannuation allowance shall be reduced pro tanto.'

In this connection it is to be noted that on several occasions this matter was raised with the late Archbishop, but he was emphatic that he did not wish further provision to be made but that the Standing Committee should wait until the occasion arose before making additional provision for his superannuation.

- (c) The Synod has power either directly or through the Standing Committee.
- (d) The Synod has power to fix a retiring age before the appointment of an Archbishop. No doubt after any such appointment such an arrangement would require his consent.

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- (e) Rules limiting the power of Synod to deal only with matters specified in the notice convening a special session were made in 1916, but the opinion has been expressed that such a limitation of the powers of Synod is ultra vires.

2. Office of Archbishop stipend etc

Mr L. Jillett asked –

- (a) What are the stipend and other emoluments pertaining to the office of Archbishop of the See of Sydney?
(b) What, if any, are the retirement and pension arrangements?

To which the President replied –

- (a) The stipend of the Archbishop of Sydney was fixed by Ordinance in 1909 at the rate of £2,250 per annum, free of certain rates and taxes. In the case of the late Archbishop, this total amount (£2,250) was paid at his express wish as £600 by way of stipend and the balance by way of expense allowance. Further amounts under the heading of various expense allowances were paid to him and increased from time to time over the years by arrangement with the Standing Committee. The Archbishop is provided with a residence and motor cars.
(b) See the answer to Question 1 before.

3. Voting for Select and Final Lists

The Rev H. W. Robey asked –

- (a) In the final voting, can Synodsmen vote for more than one candidate as is the case in the voting for Select and Final Lists?
(b) If the answer to the previous question is yes, could Synodsmen be reminded of this point of procedure, at the time of taking this vote?
(c) If the answer is no - is it possible to introduce a motion of urgency to enable the vote on the Final List to be on a preferential basis?

To which the President replied –

- (a) Yes.
(b) It is felt that the Ordinance is perfectly clear in this respect and that there would be no particular point in drawing the attention of Synodsmen to this provision any more than various other provisions of the Ordinance.

4. Meaning of 'highest aggregate majority'

The Rev C. H. Sherlock asked –

Would the Right Reverend the President explain to Synod the meaning of the phrase 'highest aggregate majority' as it appears in Clause 7 of the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance, 1931, and his ruling as to the interpretation of the phrase as it is to be applied in this session?

To which the President replied -

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There seems to be some ambiguity in the phrase, but in its context I think the meaning more probably intended will be realised by observing the following procedure -

'The aggregate votes cast for each nominee who has received the votes of a majority, both of Clerical and of Lay Members, are compared and the one whose aggregate vote arrived at in this way is the highest is the one who should be declared to be elected.'