

Canadian Flag

Mr. Paul: I realized quite well that the hon. member attempted to assimilate the wording of this resolution to the present legislation, and more especially to the Unemployment Assistance Act.

I think that the hon. member, who is a medical doctor by profession and whose reputation is well established, can quite readily grasp the difference between an individual who is temporarily ill and who puts his family in such financial straits that it must get social assistance and another individual who does not fall into a category of infirmity or specific disability which would make him eligible for benefits under the present provisions of the act.

Mr. Speaker, it often happens that some people who are physically able to look after themselves are denied a disability pension although their health prevents them, as so well stated in the resolution moved by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Smith), from holding a permanent position.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the government should make the necessary changes to broaden the scope of the act or to make its benefits more readily available because, as I said a while ago, it often happens that a person who suffers from diabetes, asthma or heart trouble cannot qualify for a pension under the Disabled Persons Act.

Yet, legislative changes must be made to enable such people to follow treatments and to look after the needs of their family. In fact, I greatly appreciated the remarks made by the hon. member for Simcoe North who suggested that the pension for invalidity should be paid directly to the disabled and not be considered as family income as it is under the present legislation.

For instance, last Saturday, a widow with five deaf-mute children, some of them suffering from epilepsy, came to my office. She cannot receive the full amount of the pension now provided because it is alleged that the \$30 collected for each of her children goes into the family budget. And yet, we know that the health condition of those persons can entail a great deal of expenses.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the hour for the consideration of private members' business is just about over, but I should like to commend again the hon. member for Simcoe North for introducing this motion. I am convinced that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss LaMarsh), who has followed the debate rather carefully, will take into consideration the suggestions that were made so that the largest possible number of

people in need of assistance may benefit from federal assistance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hour for consideration of private members' business having expired, the house will revert to the business interrupted at five o'clock.

[Text]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock this day are as follows:

The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Coates), Canadian flag, reported threats to supporters of red ensign; the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Gray), housing, request for further consideration of redevelopment projects; the hon. member for Battle River-Camrose (Mr. Smallwood), trade, steps to increase exports to Britain.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

CANADIAN FLAG**OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DESIGN**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson:

That the government be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to establish officially as the flag of Canada a flag embodying the emblem proclaimed by His Majesty King George V on November 21, 1921—three maple leaves conjoined on one stem—in the colours red and white then designated for Canada, the red leaves occupying a field of white between vertical sections of blue on the edges of the flag.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, in dealing with this important resolution before us and the procedure that might be followed to bring it into effect, if it meets the wishes of parliament, there has been some criticism to the effect that the resolution should not be submitted to parliament at this time but that there should be a referendum or a plebiscite before action by government or parliament; or that it should be submitted—and this has been another proposal—to a federal-provincial conference for agreement and a decision.

As to the latter, Mr. Speaker, surely this would not be the most effective or the right procedure to follow. Those provinces which