

Social Security

We can be sure of the understanding, the zeal and the sympathy of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, since he himself, as a few at least know, has suffered from poliomyelitis—to which reference was made this afternoon—as did also one of his sons. I therefore earnestly hope that the unanimous wish of the house and of the people of Canada will soon come true by means of proper legislation.

It has been mentioned that a survey is under way to determine exactly how many persons would benefit from such legislation. This is proof of common sense. The government being responsible to the people for the public funds and their administration, could it embark on this venture without considering what the cost would be? It is perhaps a bit premature to ask the government to make a decision now on this matter, when the situation of invalids in Canada is presently under survey.

I do not wish to detain the house any further. In conclusion, I wish to say to the hon. minister and to the government that we rely upon them, that we have confidence in them. We ask them to do their utmost to help those poor invalids. And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Text):

Mr. J. S. Sinnott (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I wish to concur in everything that has been said so far. I think great credit should be given to the hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Bertrand) for his steady insistence that this form of help should be afforded. I believe that at the present time we have in the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) one of the most sincere men that the Liberal government has ever had. I know that he cannot help but be impressed by what has been said from all sides of the house, namely, that this situation is one that cannot be tolerated any longer. The parliamentary assistant, who was just appointed a short time ago, is a man who has served for a long time in a medical capacity. I am sure he will be of great assistance to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in carrying out the intent of the resolution on today's order paper.

In my capacity as reeve of a municipality for almost ten years I have been somewhat closer to these social cases than in my capacity as a member of parliament. I have had occasion to see these cases for a long time. I should like to draw the attention of the house to one case in particular, a girl stricken with infantile paralysis who has been crippled

[Mr. Tremblay.]

for a long period of years. She has not been able to earn one cent for her own livelihood and has been dependent on her mother and father for a number of years. She has now moved into the city of Winnipeg but is still the responsibility of the municipality which I represent. Up to the present time it has cost the municipality somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$6,000 for this one case. We have another case of a boy who fell in his infancy and broke his back. His mother and father care for him, and the municipality is giving him a limited amount of aid at the present time.

As I said in the throne speech debate, assistance should be given to such cases. Not only for the municipality which I represent, which has to pay in the neighbourhood of \$5,000 a year for these cases, but for all municipalities throughout Canada such care has been quite a drain on their funds, and their only means of securing revenue is by taxing the land. Educational facilities are costing much more now than previously. When we drew our budget this year I noticed that the school taxes of the municipality have increased by almost \$11,000 for that one small municipality. If we are to keep on providing for these social cases as well as all these other things it will be beyond the ability of the municipalities to do so.

Therefore we are looking to the federal government for help. I believe another man of great ability has recently been appointed leader of the Liberal party in Ontario. I refer to the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Thomson). I am sure that those of you who have read the newspapers of late will have learned something of the foresight and vision he has concerning cases such as are covered in the resolution before us today.

Mr. Graydon: Don't link him with disability insurance.

Mr. Sinnott: When we want to link anybody with disability it will be the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon). The hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) has rightly said today that if we can find money for war purposes, if we can find money for charitable purposes to assist the people of undernourished countries, surely we have the ability to find the money to take care of those of our people who are not able to take care of themselves.

Mr. Ross (Souris): Let us vote on it.

Mr. Sinnott: It is going to cost a little money. There are about 147,000 such cases throughout Canada. At \$40 a month it will mean some \$5,800,000 a month or between \$60 million and \$70 million a year. When we can prepare for war to the extent of \$5 billion, surely the capable parliamentary assistant