

*CANADA PENSION PLAN BENEFITS

Question No. 789—**Mr. Rynard:**

1. How many people applied for Canada Pension Plan benefits because of disability and did not qualify for the years 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

2. How many people were classified as being disabled and supported by their own doctor's report did not qualify for the Canada Pension after being assessed by doctors employed by the Department of National Health and Welfare for the years 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in replying to the first part of the question with respect to the year 1969, the question is not applicable because disability pensions commenced to be paid under the Canada Pension Plan from February, 1970, only. With respect to 1970, the determined as disabled numbered 3,087. The determined as not disabled numbered 670. The figure for action discontinued due to application withdrawal or insufficient earnings is 203, and the total for the year 1970 is 3,960. For 1971 the figures are as follows: determined as disabled, 10,019; determined as not disabled, 2,259; action discontinued due to application withdrawal or insufficient earnings, 450, the total for the year 1971 being 12,758. With respect to 1972 the figures are as follows: determined as disabled, 14,951; determined as not disabled, 4,572; action discontinued due to application withdrawal or insufficient earnings, 640, the total for 1972 being 20,163.

The answer to Part 2 of the question is as follows: In the case of disability pension applications under the Canada Pension Plan, the applicants' own physicians are not asked to determine whether a person is disabled under the Canada Pension Plan legislation, since the decision is more than purely medical in nature and must be made, as required by the legislation, by the Canada Pension Plan Administration. The applicant's physician is simply asked for objective findings of any functional limitations. This procedure, including the medical report form answered by physicians, was approved by a committee of experts on disability assessment, which included a representative from The Canadian Medical Association.

The statistics of the nature requested are not kept since the applicant's physician is only forwarding a medical report; that is, the physicians are requested to report their objective findings, rather than to provide their opinion as to whether the applicant meets the requirements of the Canada Pension Plan legislation.

After the application is received along with the medical and other reports, if it is felt that more medical information is required, the applicant is asked to undergo an examination by a medical specialist (consultant) at Canada Pension Plan expense. With this information, a large number of applicants are able to complete the legislative requirements—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Despite the exchange which took place earlier between the parliamentary secretary and other hon. members, I would think that an attempt should be made by the House to consider the terms of Standing Order 39(4) which provides:

If a question is of such a nature that, in the opinion of the Minister who is to furnish the reply, such reply should be in the

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form of a return, and the Minister states that he has no objection to laying such return upon the Table—

Clearly, the answer may be made an order for return. That has been the long established practice of the House. In such a situation the reply is made by the House itself an order for return. I would hope that this might be done in relation to the answer which the parliamentary secretary is giving to the House at present. I am not sure how long he has yet to go, but I would hope that there would be consent to make this reply an order for return.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I think there are about 15 more words to go, if the House would be satisfied with English; if it wants the reply in French, it will take a little longer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think it might be agreed that the reply be made an order for return.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Return tabled.

POST OFFICE—INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE ON LETTERS
FROM LIBERAL PARTYQuestion No. 815—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Did the Post Office Department collect any postage due because of insufficient postage being placed by the Liberal Party of Canada on imitation personal letters from the Prime Minister and mailed to approximately 35 constituencies, including Leeds, shortly before October 30, 1972 and, if so (a) what was the amount of overdue postage paid (b) what was the date the Department received such payment?

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Yes. (a) \$130.56; (b) October 27, 1972.

*NUMBER OF UNITED STATES DRAFT EVADERS IN
CANADAQuestion No. 823—**Mr. Diefenbaker:**

What is the government's estimate of the number of United States draft evaders in Canada?

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the fact that an applicant from the United States is, or may be, seeking to avoid military service in his own country is not considered in determining his admissibility to Canada. Consequently draft evaders are not identified as such in Immigration records and, short of conducting a special survey or registration, it is not possible to provide an estimate, based on other than a guess, of the members in Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Ninety thousand.

• (1440)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I can be told when I may expect an answer to my starred question No. 811 in which I ask whether the Minister of Finance has had discussions with the chartered banks regarding the escalating of the pensions of their retired employees.