

*Canada Pension Plan*

member of the ministry. While the government has indicated that it intends generally to make these amendments, surely the committee cannot amend the bill. It may suggest or recommend a schedule of amendments, but the government must accept them and cause them to be moved by a member of the ministry.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Edmonton West is slightly confused. Committees do have the power, provided the amendments do not involve the expenditure of money, to make amendments to a bill. The bill is then reported to the house as amended. The amendments in question have been spelled out in appendix D of our report. There is another category of recommendations and clauses for which we are waiting action by the government, but in respect of these amendments the chairman simply puts the clause as amended.

**Mr. Aiken:** Mr. Chairman, the committee report was filed but approval was never moved, so nothing has really happened. The report has been received and the amendments have been recommended, but surely the amendments ought to be dealt with now.

**The Chairman:** It is not the understanding of the Chair that amendments to bills have to be moved by a minister unless they involve, of course, the expenditure of money. The opinion of the Chair is similar to that expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in this regard. That is why we have followed this practice throughout our consideration of this bill, at least to this point. We are now asking the committee of the house to pass the clauses as amended by the joint committee, following which the clause as amended is automatically adopted without a motion by a minister.

**Mr. Knowles:** May I just point out for the benefit of the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka that it is not necessary to move the adoption of a committee report. One of the things the committee did was to report Bill C-136 as amended, and if the hon. member will look at the order paper he will see that we are now at that stage, dealing with Bill C-136 as amended.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 53 agreed to.

On clause 54—*Amount of disability pension.*

**Mr. Aiken:** Mr. Chairman, there are several clauses immediately following clause 54

which relate to supplementary benefits payable under the Canada pension plan. A considerable amount of discussion took place in the committee in this regard, resulting in some recommendations to the effect that there be some rehabilitative medicines supplied and rehabilitative procedures adopted requiring individuals to take treatment which, if successful, would remove them from a disability class. In this regard I believe there is some problem with relation to disabled persons allowances. It is my understanding in respect of these allowances that in order to prevent some overlapping it will be necessary for provincial legislatures to pass amending enactments consequential upon the provisions of the Canada pension plan. If that is the fact, will the minister indicate whether any suggestion has been made in respect of such enactments and is any lead or assistance being given by the Department of National Health and Welfare?

**Miss LaMarsh:** Mr. Chairman, a meeting was held of welfare ministers last year and another meeting is contemplated within a month or so of the passage of this legislation. At that time we intend to discuss with the provinces unemployment insurance, mothers' allowances and all other assistance programs. Hon. members will appreciate that even following the enactment of this legislation, presupposing that that takes place soon, it will not come into effect until January 1, 1966, so that we will have the balance of this year during which time consequential changes can be made.

**Mr. Rhéaume:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to raise again one question I raised at the hearings of the committee, which relates to the establishment of eligibility for disabled benefits under the Canada pension plan. Will the minister give us her categorical assurance that the costs involved in the establishment of eligibility for these disability benefits will be borne by the federal government? In many parts of Canada people attempting to establish eligibility in this regard will have to travel over great distances in order to be examined by doctors. This will involve some expense, and I am thinking particularly of the Northwest Territories where often an individual travelling to the nearest doctor for an examination must travel several hundred miles at a cost of several hundred dollars. Will the minister give us her categorical assurance that an applicant will not have to pay these costs? It is obvious that the individuals who will be applying for disability benefits will