

Canada Pension Plan

wise, this would certainly mean that for this period of a year or two she would be further dependant upon it. Under the circumstances, if the committee is so disposed I would be prepared to stand the matter in order that I may look at it this evening.

The Chairman: Shall the clause stand?

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, before the clause is allowed to stand I wonder whether the minister could answer a question briefly. I have not been able to get an answer to this problem from a reading of the clause. I am wondering about the position of a woman who is widowed, commences to draw a pension under the act and then remarries and becomes rewidowed. What is her position then in respect of the basis on which she may or may not draw a pension under the plan as it is drafted?

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, this is covered specifically in a subsequent clause; I am told it is clause 62. But the situation is that she is given an option of choosing which pension from which husband.

Mr. Knowles: Did you draft that one?

The Chairman: Shall the clause stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Clause stands.

On clause 57—*Amount of disabled widower's pension.*

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, I have two comments in connection with clause 57. First may I say that there is, again, an amendment to the French version. Further in view of the fact that clause 56 has been stood in order that a look may be taken at the case of the widow at age 65 in this year or two gap we have been talking about, should we not stand clause 57 for the same reason? Clause 57 covers a disabled widower, and again there are the two categories, a disabled widower who is not yet 65 and a disabled widower who is 65. Should this clause not be stood for the same reason?

Miss LaMarsh: I agree, Mr. Chairman, with the consent of the committee.

The Chairman: Shall the clause stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Clause stands.

The Chairman: Clause 58 stands.

Mr. Chatterton: With regard to clause 58, Mr. Chairman, are we dealing with the—

[Miss LaMarsh.]

The Chairman: Order, please. I understand that clause 58 is one of the clauses that it was agreed would stand.

On clause 59—*Application for benefit.*

Mr. Rhéaume: Mr. Chairman, at this point I wish to raise a matter in relation to subclause (1), which states that an application for benefit must be made by the individual or on his behalf. Then subclause (2) says:

—shall be made...through the regional, district or other office, designated by the minister, of the Department of National Health and Welfare in the region or district or for the area in which the applicant resides.

My question relates strictly to the Northwest Territories, and it is a short one. I should like to get from the hon. lady the same kind of commitment which I received from the Minister of National Revenue. Right now there is no district office of the Department of National Health and Welfare anywhere in the Northwest Territories; neither is there a district taxation office. I wonder whether the hon. lady would be good enough to make a commitment that she will have her staff examine this situation. She can imagine the kind of problems that this poses to people who live in the far northerly regions who have no local district office. I wonder whether she would agree at this point, in view of this clause which makes it essential that a person apply through his local office, to undertake to look into the possibility of setting up an office at some point in the Northwest Territories so that this will not be the only area in Canada which has no district office within its own borders.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to look into this. I am informed that we moved the office from Ottawa to Edmonton so that it would be closer and would be able to give better service. My hon. friend says that the whole purpose of having a district office anywhere is to serve the people who would be beneficiaries, and I would be happy to look into this matter and see whether it is possible to improve efficiency in this regard.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 60 and 61 agreed to.

On clause 62—*“Survivor's pension” defined.*

The Chairman: There is an amendment to this clause made by the joint committee.

Mr. Chatterton: Mr. Chairman, I have one question regarding subclause (7), on page 48