

Expansion of Social Security

SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTED EXPANSION OF LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give immediate consideration, in consultation with the provinces, to the advisability of filling the major gaps in this country's social security program, including medicare, the provision of income maintenance during illness, pensions for widows dependant children, adequate survivors' benefits, and retirement pensions, when necessary, at sixty years of age, as well as to the advisability of improving legislation already in effect, so that Canada's social security system might be as complete and comprehensive as this country's economy now makes possible.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting coincidence that at five o'clock on each of the days thus far that we have been debating a national flag for Canada, an item under private members' business regarding some measure of social security has come up for debate. On Monday we had a resolution having to do with the Disabled Persons Act. Yesterday we had a bill relating to the war veterans of world war I. Today we have this resolution of mine calling for some very definite steps forward in the whole field of social security.

In connection with the debate on the flag we are thinking about this country's future. Frequent references are made to getting ready for an adequate celebration of our 100th birthday three years from now. It seems to me that the terms of this resolution suggest a very specific and concrete way in which we might really try to grow up as a nation by the time we are 100 years old. I hope that whatever else we may do to celebrate our centenary we will make every effort to strengthen and improve our social security system so that it will be as complete and comprehensive as this country's economy now makes possible.

Mr. Basford: We will.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I have often made speeches in various parts of the country concerning the progress we have made in Canada in the field of social security, and it is one of the facts of our history that we have made some progress.

Mr. Basford: Under a Liberal government.

Mr. Knowles: Hon. members will not be surprised if I say to them that I have indicated with some pride the part that our predecessors, speaking for this party, and that some of us in this party, have played

white field. Those maple leaves were painted green. The wording of the grant used the words proper, which in their heraldic sense mean "in their natural state". We are told that in its natural state a maple leaf could be green, gold or red.

With regard to green maple leaves on a white field, perhaps my hon. friend as a privy councillor has had that kind of shield in his office in the past. This shield was depicted in many of the earlier exemplifications as being green. Actually they can be found in the ceiling of the Senate chamber. But this was corrected in 1957. At that time I believe my hon. friend was a member of the government, and this was corrected in an announcement by Hon. Ellen Fairclough. This satisfied a lot of experts in this field who had been very much distressed that our arms did not conform, for instance, with the grant of the Canadian army badge, which was granted by King George VI in 1947. You will recall that the 1st division adopted a flag of three red leaves on white in 1939. It appeared clear to all those who were devotees of the heraldic arts that the pattern had to be white and red. You see this in the colours of the Royal Military College of course. You see them in the early medal ribbons to which I have referred of the 1899 period.

Mr. Churchill: Are the words actually in the proclamation though?

Mr. Matheson: The colours are set out as white and red. Perhaps my hon. friend would permit me to send him a copy of the material, because he might care to go into the corrections which were effected by Hon. Ellen Fairclough in her announcement. This was confirmed by the subsequent act of Her Majesty in her exemplification of her royal banner, which I have examined at the College of Arms in England and which has three red maple leaves on a white field in base. This was done in 1962, whether or not as a result of consultation with his government I do not know. I think it would simply be done on the basis of the heraldic instructions which had been received as a result of the royal proclamation.

May I call it five o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business, as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions and public bills.