

# HARLEY...to HALTON

By DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P.

The past week has been a momentous one in the political life of Canada. Events in and out of the House of Commons will affect the life of every Canadian. There are three matters I would like to mention this week of particular interest.

**The first matter, of course, is the Canada Pension Plan.** Here, of course, the diplomatic hand of the Prime Minister is very evident. This is the type of political activity in which Mr. Pearson excels. The compromise plan, between the Quebec and the federal plan, is apparently well received by the Premier of Ontario and expected to be welcomed by the other provincial premiers.

**Changed Three Times**  
We are not disappointed that our original plan has been changed three times — if we can improve the Canada Pension Plan even further, we should be flexible and change it again if it will benefit the people of Canada. It is surely better to bring in a plan, amend it and change it to suit as many as possible, than to bring in an inferior plan or none at all.

This pension plan will now be portable across Canada, including Quebec, and each province, if they wish, can administer the plan themselves. The new plan will still be referred to a Joint Committee of the House of Commons and it will be some time before the legislation becomes law.

**Debate Transfer**  
The second matter of importance and interest to all the veterans in the Riding was the two-day debate during a supply motion on the question of the possible transfer of DVA hospitals to other authorities. It has been recognized as far back as 1959 that a serious problem was developing in the DVA hospitals.

The Conservative answer then and their attitude now, is "hands off our veterans' hospitals." We do not believe this is the best solution for our veterans' welfare. The problems are there. Let's recognize them and do something about them before

they reach serious proportions. The problem has been developing because of the increasing number of long-term chronic illness type of veteran patient in these hospitals. At the present time, 75 to 80 per cent of patients in DVA hospitals do not require active treatment and care for care such as is given in normal general hospitals.

**Restricts Services**  
This invariably restricts the kind of medical services which are available. Professional people naturally move to hospitals where they have the broadest opportunities. This is reflected in the downgrading of the DVA hospitals by the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the teaching programs. Because of this reduction in training it will be difficult to attract medical personnel. It is a well known fact that patient care is best where the teaching facilities are greatest.

We must ensure not only that the veterans have a hospital when they require it, but that the best medical care is available to them. Therefore, the Department is investigating the possibilities of integrating in some manner, veteran patients and general hospital patients, to ensure that the best care is available and that the veterans who need hospitalization will find it available without question.

The welfare of the veterans must be safeguarded and as well, we must be able to provide the best of medical care.

The third matter is that the Procedural Committee of the House of Commons has made some trial suggestions for speeding up the routine of the House of Commons. These recommendations concern the question period.

At the present time they are working — the question period has been reduced to one-third of its previous average. We hope this improvement will continue and that further changes will continue to speed up the business of Parliament.



REPORT FROM  
**QUEEN'S PARK**  
— BY —  
**GEORGE A. KERR**  
HALTON M.L.A.

The Honourable William Davis, Minister of Education, made a long awaited announcement in the Provincial Legislature last week. He introduced legislation providing further assistance for retarded children's education. Since the inception of grants in 1953 to local associations, more than 40 new schools have been constructed with the aid of capital grants from the Department of Education and more than 400 teachers have received summer course training. At present, 84 associations are operating 87 schools with an enrollment of about 2,800 children in Ontario.

**Education Authority**  
The new legislation will mean that local associations will retain title to buildings and property, the school conducted there on will be under the control of an Education Authority, on which will serve representatives of those bodies concerned.

This Education Authority will operate the school under regulations and will be paid a grant by the Department of Education which will be a fixed percentage of the approved cost of current operations, including transportation. It is anticipated that this percentage will amount to between 70 and 80 per cent.

The remainder of the funds necessary will be raised through municipal taxes in the municipality in which the pupils reside.

**Effective January 1, 1965**  
The plan becomes effective on January 1, 1965, and it will herald achievement of the objective of making it unnecessary for local associations to raise money through charity drives for the current operation of the school and at the same time, retain certain desirable features of the present arrangement. This is a long step towards placing retarded children's schools on the same basis as our elementary schools.

As has been pointed out, volunteers will still be needed to assist local associations in the conduct of classes, to chauffeur children, and to assist, not only in rounding out a program of education and care, but in the never-ending duty of showing the children affection and convincing them that they are

wanted, needed and can make a contribution to society.

**Water Shortage**  
We have heard a great deal about water or the possible lack of it in the rural areas of Ontario. The government is worried that the drought situation which existed in many parts of the province last summer will be even worse this year and that our farmers will suffer a serious shortage.

To offset this, the Department of Energy and Resources Management has announced a project providing for the construction of water supply reservoirs and farm ponds. Further, a program of emergency rural water supply for drought-stricken areas.

The government plans to increase the grant from 50 to 75 per cent of the cost incurred in the construction of water reservoirs. This policy is available to Conservation Authorities such as the Halton Region Conservation Authority and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, and also the government will enter into agreement to have these reservoirs constructed through municipally responsible bodies.

Also, in order to encourage farmers to construct farm ponds, the government will approve a subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost of construction up to a maximum of \$500 for each pond. This policy now extends directly to each farmer in Ontario. The plan will be back-dated to November 1, 1963, to assist those farmers who constructed ponds during the fall and winter months at the urging of the provincial government.

The program will be administered by the Department of Agriculture, where information can be obtained, and the financing through the Department of Energy and Resources Management.

Our conservation authorities in Halton, among the most progressive in the province, are doing everything possible to conserve water supply and for example, to make sure that the Koko Dam near Milton is used to its utmost capacity to assure that the 100,000 or so people it serves will not be denied sufficient supply because of low water tables.

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25 EXTRA STAMPS With This Coupon and Purchase of One 12-oz. Jar <b>LIBBY'S</b> <b>POLY BARS</b> Coupon Expires May 6	25 EXTRA STAMPS With This Coupon and Purchase of One 12-oz. Jar <b>SMOKE MEAT</b> Coupon Expires May 6	25 EXTRA STAMPS With This Coupon and Purchase of One 12-oz. Jar <b>LIQUID CLEANSER</b> <b>LESTOIL</b> Coupon Expires May 6	25 EXTRA STAMPS With This Coupon and Purchase of One 12-oz. Jar <b>LIQUID CLEANSER</b> <b>LESTOIL</b> Coupon Expires May 6	25 EXTRA STAMPS With This Coupon and Purchase of One 12-oz. Jar <b>CLARK'S SPAGHETTI MEAT SAUCE</b> Coupon Expires May 6	25 EXTRA STAMPS With This Coupon and Purchase of One 12-oz. Jar <b>MOTHER PAKERS' YEA BARS</b> Coupon Expires May 6