

March 25

Committee Rejects Nurse's Special Bill

Nurse Rene Caisse's special bill, which sought permission for her to practice medicine, was lost before the Private Bills Committee of the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

Opponents of the bill contended that its endorsement was tantamount to endorsement of the Bracebridge nurse's claims of having a cancer cure or effective treatment, and that such endorsement could not be given without investigation. Provision for such investigation, it was maintained, had already been made in the proposed committee which will be appointed to investigate all claims of cancer cures or treatments.

When it was suggested that Nurse Caisse "carry on as she is doing now" until after the committee's investigation, charges were made by Nurse Caisse; her counsel, Donald Carrick, and relatives of patients that doctors in the district were refusing to diagnose cases for her to treat, that "a cabal" had been organized against her.

Charges Called Nonsense.

This brought heated cries of "nonsense," "absolutely untrue," and so forth from members of the committee, who also are members of the medical profession, and also denial of any knowledge of such a thing from Daniel Lang, K.C., representing the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Ontario Medical Association.

"That is most unfair," declared Hon. H. J. Kirby, Minister of Health. "There has been no interference from the department whatever, or any one else concerned, to prevent her from carrying on as she is doing now."

"My mother is a cancer patient, yet three doctors refused to give her a written diagnosis, though they gave it verbally," said a woman from a back seat in the audience. "We finally had to get it by a falsehood."

After refusing the bill, the committee endorsed a motion, made by J. Frank Kelly, member for Muskoka-Ontario, and the bill's sponsor, that the customary fees for its presentation to the committee be waived.

Spectators Admonished.

Approximately fifty patients or relatives of patients of Nurse Caisse attended the hearing, and so vigorously applauded members of the committee who spoke on behalf of the bill that at one stage Hon. David Croll, Chairman of the committee, admonished them: "You people will have to stop applauding if you are to remain."

"I am not claiming that Miss Caisse has a cancer cure," said Mr. Kelly in presenting the bill. "I do want to give you this fact that I know people who were sick and now are well. Their cases were diagnosed by doctors as cancer, and I know that up to a time at least Miss Caisse would not take any case unless it was diagnosed as cancer."

"I know that doctors will say these people did not have cancer. Well, I say it is a crime for doctors to tell you that you have cancer if you haven't. I know that I would pass out if a doctor told me that. I know scores and scores of people who have been helped by this treatment."