

Social Security Action On Canada-Wide Scale, Legislators' Preference

**Dr. McArthur's Resolution to Set Up Committee
to Consider Project for Ontario Discussed;
Premier Conant Says Study Might Take Years**

The need for comprehensive social security on a national scale found both sides of the Legislature in agreement yesterday when debate took place on Education Minister Duncan McArthur's resolution. The resolution dealt with the desirability of bringing in legislation to provide for the naming of a committee to consider social security in Ontario.

Opposition Leader George Drew endorsed the principle of the resolution, but found fault with the Government for what he felt was a lack of consistency in the matter of appointing committees to probe into various problems. He recalled that the Opposition sought to have a committee appointed to consider collective bargaining which would be representative of the various organizations, but the Government had refused on the ground that it could not delegate authority in this way. Now it was reversing its position.

Soldiers' Re-establishment.

The Government did not engage in the debate, preferring to wait until the bill to set up the committee comes up in the Legislature Thursday. The Opposition put up several speakers and one of them, L. M. Frost (Prog. Con. Victoria), moved an amendment to the Government motion. This amendment expressed regret that the Government had introduced no legislation to provide for the re-establishment of the members of the fighting forces in civilian occupations.

The legality of the amendment will be passed on today by Speaker Clark. It was pointed out that the amendment failed to propose an alternative to the main motion, but merely voiced criticism of the Government.

Col. Drew objected to what he called the "vague" terms of the motion. It failed to do more than generalize, he declared, and nothing was said as to the personnel of the proposed committee or its scope.

Several Years' Work.

Col. Drew's criticism drew from Premier Conant the statement that the committee likely would be composed of a majority of Legislature members and representatives of employers, labor, agriculture, servicemen and others. Its work might extend over several years, he said.

Education Minister McArthur was praised by members of the Opposition for his presentation of the situation and for his role in social security leadership. In his remarks Dr. McArthur declared that the waging of the war and the negotiation of the peace "will have been a meaningless tragedy unless they issue in a new social order in which freedom

and justice will prevail." Prewar conditions could not be permitted to continue in the postwar world, he said.

"We of the United Nations have paid a cruel and disastrous price for our unpreparedness for war," said Dr. McArthur. "It will be to our eternal reproach should we be equally unprepared for peace. Nor are the problems of postwar readjustment likely to prove to be easier of solution than those created by the war itself."

Will Cost Money.

The Minister remarked that there seemed to be a widespread readiness to assume that the benefits to be obtained from a wider scheme of social insurance would be obtained "in the same manner as the children of Israel gathered manna in the wilderness." To encourage the formation of such a picture in the future could lead only to tragic disillusionment, he said. The extension of the social services would cost money which must be extracted from the pocket-books of the people.

Human greed and selfishness had created conditions which placed limits on the security of the people, Dr. McArthur said. These vices would not be eradicated by Order-in-Council or legislative enactment. If the problems involved in the creation of greater social security were approached by the several groups and interests of the country with the intent of obtaining a maximum of benefit in return for a minimum of contribution, all efforts would be foredoomed to failure, he declared.

Colonel Drew said that "many things we now discuss cannot be carried out unless some mechanism is set up for co-ordination" as between Provinces and the Dominion.

He questioned what agreement Premier King and Premier Conant had come to in their conversations in Ottawa last Friday. Since Mr. Conant had urged joint action with Ottawa on labor and agriculture, "it would help if we knew if he did get any assurance of joint action on this."

Later, Premier Conant replied: "I want to satisfy my hon. friend's curiosity by assuring him there wasn't the slightest mention of this question of social security or many other things about which the newspapers have been making wild speculations."

Carried Too Far.

Regarding Dr. McArthur's comments on the part education must play in a democracy, Col. Drew said: "There's been a little too much carrying the ideas of democracy to the point that children have as much right to express opinions as the teachers. Firm measures supported by the mandate of the strap still has an important place." Teaching democracy, he said, was extremely important. "I think there are some things happening in this very Legislature, such as passing bills without full knowledge of their content, that place emphasis on education in social relationship. Laws in themselves will never make good