

You are right ^{to say} ~~in arguing~~ ^{to argue} that if the forthcoming White Paper on social security containing nothing substantial for the disabled it will be a "severe indictment of the Government's conduct of social policy." ~~For Ministers to~~ ^{after four years in office,} ~~weakly to postpone action~~ who continue to argue that we must wait for ^{an official survey to establish} ~~research to count~~ the numbers & therefore the cost before we can do anything are forgetting two things.

has been
& there is nothing to
prevent the same
being done with a small
scheme for those
disabled in civil
life, at least for
the severely
disabled, could
also be introduced
today within
a matter of months.

The schemes for the war disabled and the industrially injured were introduced without any ^{systematic} ~~serious~~ ^{investigation of potential} ~~count of numbers~~ but as a ^{matter of principle;} ~~the same could be said about~~ ^{at least} ~~these severely disabled in civil life~~ ^{could also be introduced today} ~~today~~. They also forget that ~~no steps have yet been taken to~~ a survey will not of its ~~establish~~ ^{by its own accord} produce the principles according to which the civilian disabled should be compensated. The Government has given no sign that it ~~intends~~ ^{has tangible evidence} that it has any experts at work reviewing methods of medical ~~assessment~~ ^{consulting} ~~practices in different countries~~ ^{different bodies, incl. the disabled} and ~~putting~~ ^{different} ~~administrative~~ definitions of disability. ~~to the public for comment & discussion.~~

compare the
functional
effects of war
and chronic disability,

There are no
signs are that it
the Government
has yet to prepare
treat this
problem with
any seriousness
seriously & urgently
with any
seriousness
or urgency.

The ~~Disability Income Group~~ ^{on disability to be} ~~would like a permanent~~ ^{appointed} ~~commission~~ ^{to be} ~~working at this very moment~~ ^{months}. ~~The Government's policy implies~~ ^{its} ~~conduct so far implies~~ ^{that Government is guilty of more than} ~~gross hypocrisy as well as~~ ^{procrastination}.

It is difficult to
conclude

~~But~~ The really serious ^{fundamental} ~~long term~~ question is whether a scheme can be extended, as you say, to cover the low-^{if it can we must envisage} ~~paid wage-earner who has some handicap~~ ^{disability, varying by degree of disability} ~~demands a flexible scheme,~~ ^{as for example £2 for 20 per} ~~cent disability, £4 for 40 per cent, & £6 for 60 per cent &~~ ^{without payable irrespective of earnings.} ~~So on, with supplementary payments for special services required for~~ ^{particular disabilities} ~~A scheme based on the principle of loss of~~ ^{earnings} ~~Such a scheme cannot easily be based on a defined loss of~~ ^{earnings, Many schemes in other countries have been based on this} ~~principle but are in practice extremely difficult to operate and~~ ^{Although these are schemes of this kind} ~~suffer from a lack of flexibility in practice & tend to exclude a~~ ^{large numbers of the population who suffer from significant but not} ~~totally inoperable handicaps. Instead we should explore the~~ ^{wholly}

like schemes
in many other
CS
The task of rational
defining loss of
earnings - individual
cases & assessing
in different

feasibility of basing ^{amount of weekly} pension on ^{limitation of activity, that is,} degree of incapacity to follow the activities of ^{ordinary persons} ~~the~~ ^{the} great majority of people of the same age. By assessing individuals according to a range of ordinary activities (walking, running, climbing stairs, dressing & so on) it would be possible for assessment panels to come to more rational conclusions about ^{the percentage of full disability} pension that should be awarded. How is it possible to decide ^{per cent of disability} ~~then by intelligently~~ ^{the much more arbitrary} procedure of calculating ^{that is, by} ~~hypothetical~~ ^{for a hypothetical} loss of earnings for ^{someone with permanent handicap from childhood} a man of 50 ~~years~~ who has had six different jobs during ^{the} 10 years since the onset of a progressive disease, during which time wage-levels & the nature of former types of job has changed? There are of course many difficulties in working out ~~a~~ ^{of} a detailed procedure for assessment by limitation of activity ^{why shouldn't Britain take an interest} but why in heaven's name is Mr Crossman so slow in seizing ^{one of} the most obvious advantages of the new amalgamation of the Ministries of Health & Soc Sec ~~to the~~ ^{in theory} ~~One might have thought that~~ the disabled ^{should} ~~would~~ be the first group to benefit from the advantages of amalgamating the Ministries of Health & Soc Sec. Why in heaven's name is Mr Cr. so slow in seizing ^{these advantages} ~~them~~?

recent research
 suggests it can be done.