

at the University of Reading
A Report of a Conference attended by disabled persons ^{shows what slow progress has been made towards a disability pension scheme, ~~but~~ also shows what progress has been made}
Five years ago Douglas Houghton and Peggy Harrison ^{to the death}

announced that the disabled were included in the Labour Government's long-term review of social security. ~~Before~~
^{photos of} Ministers were ~~photographed~~ receiving deputations from the Disablement Income Group were published in the press and it was evident that there was ^{wide} ~~understand~~ public ^{support for the introduction} ~~sympathy~~ for a comprehensive disability pensions scheme. It was therefore remarkable that when ~~the Crossman's~~ the results of the

Instead two supplementary measures were announced.

Government's review were eventually published in 1969 there ^{such} was no sign of any hard thinking about a pension scheme. ~~Two small measures were announced.~~

~~The Government announced a constant attendance allowance of £4 a week for those who are very severely handicapped ^{has been announced}, and ~~together with an earnings-related invalidity pension for those who have been off work sick for more than 6 months will gradually be introduced between 1972 and 1992.~~~~

^{in 1972} A few severely handicapped people will be eligible to receive a constant attendance allowance of £4 a week, ~~in 1972~~ and a ~~small number of persons~~ ^{those} who have been off work sick for more than six months will be eligible after that year to receive an earnings-related ^{invalidity} pension, but the full benefits of the scheme will not be payable until 1992 and even then ^{few of the disabled} it is unlikely to ~~do~~ ^{be} ~~care~~ likely to benefit substantially - because of low ^{the rate of employment history of the disabled} previous earnings and ~~intermittent careers in employment.~~

irregular employment records

^{what of a new} The Government ~~has~~ Social Survey has completed a national survey of the chronic sick and disabled

The only possible progress that has been made ^{towards} ~~towards~~ a disability pension scheme is the completion of ^{the} ~~the~~ a national survey of the chronic sick and disabled has been completed, ~~but~~ ^{but} although Mrs Judith Hart, Minister of S. S. at the start of the survey, ~~to~~

suggested that this would provide the facts for a pension scheme it is significant that the White P. of Jan 1969 claims merely that (NS. p. 28) Mr Crossman himself shot down a private member's bill ^{which would have established a common} in 1968 to work out new principles of assessment for pensions.

At the Reading Conference

In the absence of
~~As a result of the~~
lack of expert guidance
& ~~the~~ ^{inadequate} ~~the~~ disabled
themselves have been
left to put forward
~~their~~ ^{their} guiding
principles. They
welcome & not merely
accept ^{collective} ~~the~~ designation
as the disabled. ~~They~~
They prefer a pension
of right and not on
test of means. Indeed,
~~there~~ ^{at the ready cash} what emerged was
a real hatred of
charity ~~for~~ ^{as such} ~~for~~ ^{for some}
which extended to the
collecting boxes of some
voluntary societies. The
pension would vary in
two senses: it would
be related to ability
to work (though ~~it~~ ^{the amount granted} would
be payable whatever the
actual earnings) and to
extra expenses incurred
because of disability.

The disabled themselves put forward a claim for a basic
pension on ~~both~~ ^{additional} grounds both of need and
Many Greaves and others called attention to the
private transport, laundry & dry cleaning, heating in winter, telephone,
many extra needs of disabled persons: (clothes which
are quickly worn out by those, for example, who have to
wear steel calipers & coats; groceries which have to
be delivered; holidays ^{accommodate} (which have to be on the
ground floor. Though the needs tend to vary with disability,
Secondly, there should be some compensation for
inability to earn a reasonable ~~of~~ minimum wage of,
say £15, per week.