

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Thursday, April 2, 1970.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on the Department of Health and Social Services.
The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I only have a few comments before the next speaker takes over. I'd like to go back to the comments made by the Honourable Member from Fort Rouge when she talked about the question of Medicare.

When the province instituted Medicare effective April 1st, 19 -- actually 1970, no provision was made for the supplying of drugs to municipal welfare recipients. The City of Winnipeg set up its own plan with a cost-sharing on the usual 20-80 formula. The gross cost of this service rose to \$7,000 for the month of December, 1969, only. On this basis it has been assumed that the gross cost for 1970 may be \$75,000 to \$90,000 shareable on a 20-80 basis, that is \$18,000 for the City of Winnipeg and \$72,000 for the Province of Manitoba. Prior to this they went to the out-patient department for medical care and got their drugs there. They could still do this but now have a free choice of doctors and he gives them -- actually he prescribes drugs which they take to a drug store. I don't think there is very much we can do about that. But they have the opportunity.

Regarding her comments on Peoples' Opportunity Services. The Honourable Member from Fort Rouge asked questions about evaluation of this program. This is actually a three-year demonstration project to test out new and better ways to deliver social services to people with social and economic problems in the urban renewal areas.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister repeat that statement.

MR. TOUPIN: There's quite a bit of noise in the House. Maybe if the honourable members would keep quiet. This is a three-year demonstration program to test out new and better ways to deliver social services to people with social and economic problems in the urban renewal areas. (Did it come out clear?) A part of the project is a built in evaluation and the Federal Government is a major contributor to the project. We have no final evaluation data and we will not have this for another year because of the experiment. Our evaluation up 'til now tells us that we are moving in the right direction. This is actually the only conclusion that we can arrive at so far as the Peoples' Opportunity Service project is concerned.

Regarding the question here that I got from the Honourable Member from Fort Rouge again, on the 800 cases in city public welfare department that show to be transferred to the finance because they are in fact 100 percent responsibility of our department. She is entirely correct. The 800 cases are deserted mothers over one year, mothers with husbands in jail over one year and similar groups that meet provincial social allowance criteria. There has been a delay in our taking these 800 cases because of space problem, staff shortages, but I must say, however, that we are now in the process of taking these 800 cases over as quickly as possible. We have a committee comprised of representatives from our department and the city welfare working on this transfer and it should be completed within 30 days.

I made a few comments before we adjourned at 5:30 regarding the questions and comments made by the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. I'd just like to make a few more before I sit down. One is pertaining to the day care centres, the two day care centres that we have in the city. I have to agree with the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party that this is far from being adequate and I must tell the members of the House that we feel that this still is a very important program for us and that we are moving ahead and there should be a press release on this in the next few days. --(Interjection)-- No. Not two days, I said a few days.

Regarding Elderly Persons' Housing. Here again I guess I have to be in agreement; I don't know why but I have to be in agreement with the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. There is a need there; we are placing emphasis on this need but the Federal Government has actually cut down the amount that has been voted for elderly persons' housing. The amount is \$2 million. We're trying to have that extended. We are committed for the total amount of \$2 million. As soon as we can get additional funds from the Federal Government we will go ahead for more projects; we have in our budget an amount to go ahead with more.

I was hoping to have the figures regarding the welfare recipients, the example that you gave in Calgary, Alberta. I haven't got them here, I should have very shortly. As soon as I get them I'll give them to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

April 2, 1970.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity of speaking. It's strange that the Minister and I should get up dually and it was my privilege to bow to him. In his comments he sort of "shot me down" a little way but I intend to proceed to the best of my ability. But first of all I must extend my congratulations to him on his appointment to the Minister of Health and Welfare and at the same time I wish him well. He's the kind of a man that I like. I like the cut of his jib. You ask him a question and he gives you an answer, gives you a straight look in the eye in doing so and I am sure that augurs well for the future. He has a tremendous responsibility, there's no question about it. The estimates that are before the House speak for themselves.

I was interested, Mr. Chairman, in noting that Medicare is costing the people of Manitoba by taxation or otherwise, something in the amount of \$148.00 per year. The over-all cost is some \$144 million in this direction. I was also concerned that the hospital costs had risen to \$89 million as opposed to \$81 million of last year, up \$8 million, and I would hope that when the Minister again rises to reply to some of the questions as to whether or not he'll let me know how much is collected by premiums from the people of Manitoba under the heading of Hospitalization. I'm sure that \$8 million will be increased considerably.

I notice also with some concern that Medicare costs some \$55 million, \$17 million up over the nine-month period. Mr. Chairman, these figures, I suggest to you, are a far cry from the \$20 million which was the figure that was banded around and argued just two short years ago. I am one who has always felt that Medicare was a good thing provided it was within our means. Personally I've always felt that we as a society could provide for the very young and the very old and the maimed and the blind in between, and the rest of us could take care of ourselves.

Our medical bill, Mr. Chairman, is colossal, and I suggest that it's going to take the alertness and care of the Minister in exercising his responsibilities to keep these costs within bounds. I don't need to tell him or tell this House that the wage earner's take home pay is getting forever smaller and the day is not too distant at the current rising rate of socialism that a major portion of the average man's income will be spent by the government and the government only. I suggest Mr. Chairman, that the Minister will have to be constantly on the alert in an effort to hold the line and cut out the fat in this Medicare program. It doesn't need me to tell anyone in this House that it is developing and it's going to have to be watched closely. Let's face the abuses - and there are abuses - I have heard on many occasions, as I'm sure many members of this House have, the cost of medication is rather expensive but it's cheaper to go into the hospital, regardless of the costs of that hospital care. These are the days, Mr. Chairman, where everybody has to have an assistant and these are the costs that are going to have to be watched. I suggest to the Minister and to the House that Britain as a people in themselves are now reported to be turning away from social programs that have, in some instances, brought the country almost to bankruptcy.

I'm glad to see mention made and the intention of the department insofar as the retarded children are concerned of the province. I've been a great advocate for many years that something be done for those children. We all know that for many years they were put in the attic and out of the way but now those youngsters through the efforts of society as a whole are getting a chance in the sun. You'll find no problem here, Mr. Minister, in support insofar as the retarded children are concerned. Whilst on this subject I think it only right and proper to mention the name of a man who spearheaded in this House and in this Assembly that something be done for the retarded children. That was none other than Mr. Steinkopf who has travelled up and down this province and across this country in the interests of bettering the lives of these poor unfortunate children, and I pay tribute to him on this occasion. The Retarded Children's Home in Swan River, Mr. Minister, has been a blessing. The people have rallied and it's a real workable organization and doing a fine job.

I notice that some half million dollars or more is provided for the renovation of jails. I'm not one of those that suggest that institutions of that kind should be carried on as they were done in the last century. I'm all for improvements, but improvements within reason. People that are put in those places are put in there for a reason. They are paying their debt to society and I don't see in any way that their lives should be made just that much more comfortable because they are taken on the payroll of society who must maintain them so long as they are in there. I think of the habitual criminals - shouldn't say criminals in every case - but those unfortunates that cannot keep out of trouble, that spend, many of them, spend a lifetime

(MR. BILTON Cont'd). . . . in and out of jails. Our jails and penitentiaries across the country, Mr. Minister, are fuller today than they have ever been before, and this Sir, is something that society will have to carry, but at the same time I get a little tired of these do-gooders that suggest this comfort or that comfort for a man that's placed in custody as a punishment for something that he has done that is wrong. I suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that there's no provision for those that suffer at the hands of those people. Somehow or other, I think those debts to society should be paid and paid in a manner that they don't want to come back.

I now come to the matter of the Northern Task Force. I've been hesitant you know, Mr. Chairman, to speak of the activities of the Task Force because it has always been the practice that any comment on documents such as that are not debated until they are tabled. However, over the weeks and months that has not been the case. We have seen it in the newspapers, you have seen it in the radio, and the deputy chairman, last Saturday night, on a political enterprise went on to explain the recommendations of the Task Force and the possibilities for the future. As everyone in the House knows, being a newspaper man and owning a newspaper and being a member of this party, or at least this Task Force, that the temptation was very very great from time to time to give an opinion; but I refrained from doing that, Mr. Chairman, so I feel if the method of handling these things has changed, I feel free to make a few comments this evening.

The Minister has spoken about lack of funds in the north to meet the needs of the north. I say to him that the government in its wisdom developed a Task Force and they told them to go and find out what the problems were; talk with the people, the grass roots, and that's exactly what we did. We sat around the stoves and went into their tents and we went into their homes. We came back, and forty recommendations were developed, a full plate of activity which is going to cost a lot of money, let's not fool ourselves; but at the same time the need is so great that no time, Mr. Minister, can be wasted. Lack of funds or no lack of funds, they must be found somewhere to make a start.

MR. TOUPIN: May I ask a question? I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, did the honourable member mention 40 recommendations or 40 towns were visited?

MR. BILTON: Forty.

MR. TOUPIN: Towns?

MR. BILTON: Forty recommendations are included in that report and the 41st is for the reconstituting of that Task Force. That I'll have something to say about later. But in the meantime, Mr. Minister, the point I want to make with you, and make most forcefully to the best of my ability, is that we must get at the basic things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the honourable member continues, I hesitate to interrupt a rules expert, but I would like to point out that he should not, in my judgment, deal in too lengthy a fashion with the Northern Task Forces unless it relates directly to this department.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I thought I qualified my remarks. I am fully aware of the rules, but I qualified my remarks, if you remember in the beginning, that it has been a free-for-all to this point. I have not spoken. I have been asked by the radio. I have been asked by the newspapers. I have refused to comment. Surely you are not going to deny me the privilege in this House now.

MR. GREEN: I don't agree that it's been a free-for-all. I have no knowledge as to how the material that the honourable member refers to got to the newspaper. I have no knowledge as to how the material the honourable member refers to got to the radio. As to the references -- Pardon me?

MR. WEIR: It's not the only thing you don't know.

MR. GREEN: Well, I admit that I don't know a lot of things and I don't admit that my honourable friend knows everything. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that it is contrary to the rules of the House and I think that it's contrary in some respects to the privileges of the House, for the honourable member to refer to the Northern Task Force report, which has not yet been tabled, and I for one have not seen the final documented report, and therefore -- he says that the Honourable Member for The Pas made some remarks about it. I don't think that that would entitle him to come into the House and begin an open discussion on the Northern Task Force report, and he himself knows it, and I think it should stop.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not quite right when he . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: . . . a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: ...allow the Member for Swan River to speak on a point of order first. Would you care to make your comments?

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, surely the Minister isn't suggesting to the House that he has not seen that final report of the Committee. You are the Chairman, Sir.

MR. GREEN: I wouldn't say that if I didn't mean it, and I do mean it. I did not see the final drafted and printed report, and if the honourable member will recall, at the meeting where they last discussed it I wasn't there, and I am waiting for the staff to produce to me the final report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: On the point of order that was raised, Mr. Chairman, may I say this, that numerous members of the House have alluded to the Northern Task Force and they have spoken about the problems they may have noticed for the members of this Task Force, and I see nothing wrong with the Member for Swan River making the same observations. He is not talking about specific recommendations; he is talking about what he has noticed as a member of the Task Force, and I think he is perfectly within order to speak about the problems he may have noticed. He is not speaking about the recommendations of the Task Force.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, if that's what the honourable member is doing then I agree that he should be able to do that, but if my honourable friend was here and was listening, the member started to refer to 41 specific recommendations - I don't know now whether he is going to list them. He also indicated that because of what other members had done he was going to not follow the rules of the House and go into the report, and I'm suggesting to him that if that's his reason for going into the report he should stop and merely make the kind of reference that the honourable Leader of the Liberal Party says that he should make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I might just say that my point in raising the objection was two-fold, one that the specific recommendation shouldn't be dealt with, and secondly, that the member should restrict his comments to the estimates we're now dealing with, Health and Social Services, and not get into any other areas connected with the activities of the committee.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your comments and I think that, politically speaking, the Leader of the House and myself have been together for far too long and that maybe he's anticipating me too often. He has no idea what I was going to say. He's anticipating that I'm going to discuss the 40 recommendations. Well, of course, nothing could be further from the truth.

MR. GREEN: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member got up and said that because of what has happened he was not going to follow the normal rules and he was going to go into matters which he shouldn't go into, and I'm suggesting that he should not do that.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman...

MR. GREEN: But he said that he's going to do it. --(Interjection)--No, I don't want to listen to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please. May I say this before.....

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question of the Minister? Did he interrupt the Minister when he was talking about the Northern Task Force? Did he interrupt the Minister when the Minister said that they didn't have the funds to take care of the needs of the north, so great as they were? Did he interfere then?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think that, if you'll allow me to, I think we're now getting into a dialogue between two members. I would simply say to the member for Swan River, I would ask the Member for Swan River to now make his comments and ...

MR. BILTON: I'm still talking, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister's salary of Health and Social Services, and I'm telling the Minister.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, if I may, I'd like to thank the honourable member for St. Boniface for the cigar I just received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's highly relevant.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS. (St. Boniface): What number of recommendation....?

MR. WEIR: On the point of order; on the point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'd ask the member to proceed, bearing in mind those shoals that we pointed out.

MR. BILTON: I've been used to shoals before; it's no problem with me whatsoever. I abide by your ruling, Mr. Chairman, and I'll do the best I can, and all I'm trying to emphasize

(MR. BILTON Cont'd)...is the need of the people in the north, and I'm asking the Minister, in all earnestness, to get at the basics first and the others will follow; and the basics are health, education and transportation. We have one dentist assigned in Dauphin and I've seen him at work, and when I see him with 50 and 70 children there waiting in a line to give them treatment and he's in there once every 12 months, I think this is a public disgrace, and that's only one area --(Interjection)--and I know you can say to me "Why didn't you do it then?" but that's so much water over the dam. Let's get on with the job.

And we saw many senior citizens, humble people, living in squalor. This, Sir, is unnatural, unreal and unnecessary in this day and age. You have mentioned, Sir, your program to do with senior citizens' homes, and I appeal to you in all sincerity that at least one be assigned to the remote areas so that those people in their twilight years will at least have some comfort and pleasure, cleanliness, everything that goes with life, before they pass from this earth. They deserve it. They deserve it.

And speaking of extended care homes, I would remind the Minister, as I reminded his predecessor, my interest in this particular project in Swan River, the extended care home. I'm hearing on the streets from people that are closely affiliated with members of the government, that it's in the bag; the only people that are going to stop it are the Conservatives. Well, how can we? If it's in the bag, I want to see the grass turned this year. Don't let your friends down. Don't let them down, because they're telling the people that it's there. The Minister, in presenting his estimates last year, promised me that it would receive every consideration, and I'm asking you too, Sir, to examine that file and do the best you can, because it's needed. It's proved beyond words that it's needed.

When we're talking about welfare, I talked to the Minister personally and he has assisted me with one or two extreme cases, and he knows the effort that I put in as a legislator, in spite of the fact that we have a contingent of welfare people in our community. You know, Mr. Minister, the hardest people to help are those that are really in need for the first time. Those that have been in the habit of getting it over the years, it seems no problem at all, and those that come upon it through no fault of their own are at a loss to know why they have to sign this form and that form, and it takes months. I know it has to be processed in Swan River; it has to be processed in Dauphin; it has to be processed in Winnipeg; and it's processed all the way back, and in the meantime people are starving. Deserted wives with children. I think this is the sort of thing that should be arrested and can be arrested with a little effort, and I would like the Attorney-General, in company with the Minister, to examine this situation of deserted wives. No man, no man has the right to bring five or six children into this world and walk away and leave a woman at the mercy of the state. The state does its part when all these little factors have been gathered in, but no man has any right to walk away and leave a family such as that on society. I'm asking for some teeth to be put into these laws and these people found, and they either pay their way for that family or be punished. Nothing, nothing less is good enough.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you again, and I'm disappointed at the misunderstanding in the beginning, but I just love to tie horns with the Leader of the House. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Before the Minister replies, I wonder if he could inform the House in respect to the payment of Medicare bills to hospitals and to doctors. I have a letter here that I would like to read to the Minister and perhaps he could give an answer to it. This is a letter to the editor of the Portage Leader. "Dear Sir: I have a comment to make about the very un-businesslike way the statement of the remuneration paid to doctors and hospitals is handled under the present Manitoba Hospital Commission. Prior to April 1969, a subscriber received from the Manitoba Medical Service and the Manitoba Hospital Commission a statement of monies paid in his behalf. Under the present system we receive no statement, which I feel could lay the plan open to much abuse, which would inevitably lead to higher premiums. We do receive a statement of amounts payable by the Manitoba Hospital Commission to doctors operating outside of the plan. Why, then, could we not also receive a similar statement of amounts paid to hospitals and doctors operating within the plan? Surely the over-all cost of such a statement could be justified and may even help to keep our premiums in line. I would like to see more comments on this subject, for it is only by voicing our protests that a wrong can be righted."

Now, Mr. Chairman, what this person is saying is that under the old system of MMS,

(MR. G. JOHNSTON Cont'd)...when a person visited the doctor and the cost of the visit was charged, the patient received back a month or so later a statement of what had gone on between the patient and the doctor. Now, I think it's a reasonable suggestion that even though Medicare is in force today in Manitoba, that when someone visits or phones or has a house call from a doctor, that a statement should come to the patient. I know it's being paid by the Medicare plan but still I think this person has a very valid point, and I would like to hear the Minister's answer on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before -- does the honourable member have a question, the member for Lakeside?

MR. ENNS: Just a short question, Mr. Chairman, supplementary to that raised by the Leader of the Liberal Party. Insofar as the question and in fact the letter read by the House Leader of the Liberal Party comes from a constituent of mine from the community of Westbourne and it's a letter that I am in the process of attempting to answer, I would certainly wish to associate myself with the same questions asked by the House Leader of the Liberal Party and endorse the general sentiments expressed by the Member from Portage la Prairie, and would eagerly await the reply of the Minister of what would appear to be a very reasonable and legitimate request on the part of this constituent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now intend to recognize the Member for Wolseley. I'm sure that he would prefer to make his remarks seated and I'm sure that no member of this House would take any objection to that.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Mr. Chairman, I'd like to extend my greetings to the Minister on his appointment and I wish him well in his office. I look forward to a very pleasant association with him during this session.

In entering this debate on the Health estimates, I do so with the hope that I may influence the government to take action now - not some time in the future, but now - to bring in a bill to effect certain extensions to the Medicare-Hospitalization program. Now I realize that I could approach this subject by placing a resolution on the Order Paper. However, I'm offering certain suggestions at this time for two reasons: first, that when my party formed the government, the Opposition was in favour of these amendments so that they should not now be difficult for the present government to introduce the suggested changes. Unanimous endorsement should now be possible, and I am confident that the majority on this side of the House will support these recommendations. Second, there seems little sense in placing a resolution on the Order Paper that asks the government to consider the advisability of doing anything, particularly after the fiasco we had the other day over the word "advisability." I do not want to get into a situation of juggling or playing with words. Such a resolution would probably be so far down on the Order Paper that it would never be dealt with at this session.

As you are all aware, I have endured quite a medical experience since last September, and since that time I have been in and out of four hospitals, the Misericordia, the St. Boniface, the General, and the Rehab Hospitals. Now, I must hasten to say that the care and attention given to me in all of these institutions convinces me that we have a wonderful medical-hospitalization service in our community and one in which we should take great pride. However, there are certain improvements that should be put into effect at the earliest opportunity, and it is with this purpose in mind that I enter this debate, with the hope that out of my illness some good may develop that will help others that will follow.

Most of us when we are in good health take the Medical Hospitalization Services for granted. As we drive by the hospitals, we recognize that they are there. But do we really have a deep down concern for the less fortunate that are patients in these institutions, or are we merely to give lip service to the subject? I personally took hospitals for granted until all of a sudden I required their services. Perhaps this is a natural tendency if you have never required their services over a period of fifty years. My first suggestion is that the physiotherapist be included in the provincial program. Physiotherapy is a recognized essential medical service prescribed by physicians, directed towards the rehabilitation of the handicapped in terms of his total situation. These services, in-patient and out-patient should be financed by the Medicare Hospitalization Program, in order that these services might be made available to the greatest number of patients, on the most economic basis.

Physiotherapy services are presently available as an insured benefit of in-hospital patient coverage under the Manitoba Hospital Commission. Out-patient services are available as an insured benefit only at the following hospitals: The Manitoba Rehab in Winnipeg; Municipal

(MR. CLAYDON Cont'd). . . . Hospitals, Winnipeg; Children's Hospital in Winnipeg; the Dauphin General Hospital in Dauphin and the Assiniboine Hospital in Brandon. That is to say that out-patient services provided by other hospitals must be paid for by the patient or some other agency. This is not fair. It is a form of discrimination. Discrimination against the patient and discrimination against the hospital. In any hospital where physiotherapy services are available, and for which the Hospital Commission pays for these services on an in-patient basis, the same services should be provided for out-patient as an insured benefit, otherwise there is an incentive for the patient to avail himself of the service provided to him as an in-patient at a hospital where the costs are paid by the Manitoba Hospital Commission. The final result is that a large number of acute care hospital beds are tied up unnecessarily. To cover all services as an insured benefit would distribute the case load over a number of hospitals rather than a few.

Now I can give you some personal experiences in this regard. During my visitations to the Rehab Hospital, I have heard out-patients discussing between themselves their various problems, where they are on compensation and they don't want to leave the Rehab Hospital, they have it made, they think it's a wonderful place to be and hole up in it, and yet there's other people trying to get into these Rehab Hospitals. I'm convinced that perhaps if the case load was spread around the other hospitals then perhaps there would be more space in the Rehab Hospital where occupational therapy takes place.

At this point I should like to extend an invitation to all the members of this assembly to visit the Manitoba Rehab Hospital and to witness firsthand the work being carried on by the Physio and Occupational Therapists. I have been authorized to extend this invitation by Dr. Russell Hayter with the proviso that you go in groups of six or ten, so as not to interfere with the programs being carried on. If you will contact Dr. Hayter, Dr. Michael Newman or Miss Joan Edwards at the Rehab Hospital, they will be pleased to arrange for your visitation. I urge you to avail yourself of this invitation for I am convinced you will come away favourably impressed by the work being carried on by this branch of the medical profession. You owe it to yourself as well as to the public you serve to visit this institution. I should mention that all the doctors at the Rehab Hospital are operating within the Medicare Plan, and of course it is my hope that in time all doctors will be in the plan.

There is another area that in my view should be considered, and that is this. That in all hospitals in which physiotherapy is provided, that those departments should be under the direction of a Director of Physical Medicine and that all patients referred to that department should first be interviewed by the Director in charge before any treatments are given; in the same way as referrals are handled in the Rehab Hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, the conversational level is getting a little high, and I would ask honourable members to keep it down so that we can clearly hear the remarks of the Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: I'd be very glad to Mr. Chairman. I want to make sure they can hear me, and hear me clearly.

I want to explain some of my own experiences in the last statement that I made. When I was in the Misericordia Hospital, my general practitioner sent an order down to the physiotherapy department for me to take certain exercising. In that hospital there is a director in charge, but I was not actually referred to the director for him to instruct a physiotherapist just exactly what I needed. And after about a month of hobbling down the hallway on a cane, in which I developed a bad habit of kicking my foot out to the left in order to clear the ground because I had what was called a left foot drop, an ankle drop, I got into this bad habit, and then all of a sudden one day this director was coming down the hallway behind me and he says "hold up there, just a minute, I want to talk to you." So we sat down and we had a very enjoyable discussion. He said what you need is a brace on your foot. I said well why didn't somebody tell me this. Well he says, "nobody referred you to me." Now this is where the patient suffers. I've got into this habit and I'm having an awful job getting out of it, because of the fact that nobody bothered to tell me I needed this brace. Within two days I had a brace. I went back to my G.P. and I said, why didn't you tell me I needed a brace? And his answer to me was "you didn't need one up till now." Now that to me was a lame duck excuse. I believe that wherever there is a physiotherapy department there should be a director in charge and before anybody touches a patient, that director should prescribe what is required for that patient,

April 2, 1970.

(MR. CLAYTON Cont'd. . . . in consultation if necessary with the doctor, the general practitioner or whoever orders the physiotherapy.

I should tell you that there is no director in charge at the General Hospital. They do their own. But an arrangement is being negotiated between the Children's and the Rehab for children under 16 years of age. The same director that covers the Misericordia Hospital covers the Municipal and the St. Boniface Hospital. Now I realize that this one man could not possibly interview all the patients that are in those three hospitals; so there is a need for an appointment of a director in each of these hospitals for this purpose.

Now let me say a word or two with regard to the extension of other services in the future. And I'm not saying that these that I'm now going to recommend should be done immediately, but I think they should be looked into. First of all there's a great need for hostels to provide accommodation at a lower per diem rate in close proximity to treatment centres than exist now. As I understand it, in the General and St. Boniface Hospitals, the per diem rate is \$51.00 a day. In the Misericordia it's \$41.00 a day and in the Rehab it's \$33.40 per day. This would release acute care beds. There's a great need for this at a lesser cost than in an active hospital.

I'd like to mention also prosthetics and orthotics. In Manitoba there is no mechanism within the medical and hospitalization insurance scheme for the provision of prostheses or orthoses except when the devices are used in the hospital as part of the treatment program. Now I understand, the information that I have is that for instance prosthetics - if you don't know what it is, that's limbs - they cost anywhere from 21¢ to \$38 dollars, and only 20 percent of the people pay for their own limbs, other organizations have to pay for them. Society of Crippled Children and so forth. When you come to orthotics, which are actually splints, combining their prosthetics and orthotics, anybody who is solvent they pay; indigents are covered by welfare, accident cases are covered by compensation. So it seems to me that there's a great degree of duplication here, and perhaps the province should cover the whole thing under Medicare and you wouldn't have this duplication and delay which exists in determining who's going to pay for the limbs or the splints.

Then there is the question of life-saving drugs. Now I'm not advocating that you should at the moment put in all the drugs, because I realize you have to find the money to pay for these things. But there are certain lifesaving drugs, and I refer to one; insulin for diabetics; heart pills and pills for the control of blood pressure. These are lifesaving drugs, and they could be easily defined by the medical profession. It's my view that they should be included in Medicare. I'd also like to mention that there's a great need for medical vans at the hospitals. Now after the first occurrence of my illness, I took upon myself a project on behalf of Misericordia Hospital to provide a medical van for that hospital, and I think you are well aware of it. And at this point I want to thank members on all sides of the House for their contributions towards this for the contributions by members of Winnipeg Council, and the contributions by the Councillors of Metro Corporation. Over the years I have heard the public repeatedly say that politicians are money-grabbing people. Well I want to tell you here and now, that one member who is a politician subscribed \$200 towards the cost of this van. And if anyone wants to sit down and call him a money grabbing person I want to be the first one to talk to him, because I think that this business of accusations against politicians in this regard must stop. They are very generous, they came forward and we met our objective, and I would like to tell you that the value of that bus to Misericordia Hospital is such that it has been reported to the Mother House in Montreal, and has even been reported to the Misericordia Hospital in New York. So they think this is a wonderful service; and I can also tell you that the particular ambulance involved, or medical van, was put into operation for fourteen hours in one day. This was the need of that hospital for that medical van. We hope to have this converted to be able to take a stretcher if need be. The objective was not to use it primarily as an ambulance, but if in an emergency it's required, it could be used. These are not expensive vehicles. They are Volkswagon vans. They are used extensively throughout Europe as ambulances. I don't believe that you have to have a great big Cadillac or something like that to run around or take a patient at high speed to the hospital, particularly in the City of Winnipeg. I personally have been opposed to all this noise and speeds that have been existing within the city that the operators have been developing over the years. There is no need for it, the medical profession does not support it, and I'm hoping that perhaps under the Traffic Act that some day they may make these vehicles conform to standard laws. I believe that the

(MR. CLAYDON Cont'd ambulances should be established and connected at the hospitals, under the control of the hospital. It's my view that when a call goes through to 999 that those calls should be directed to the nearest hospital and that the ambulance dispatched from that hospital should be dispatched with an intern on it, and a driver who would be trained in first-aid, instead of sending out a man who perhaps gets in an ambulance for five minutes and goes out to render assistance to an accident victim. Now I don't want to see screwdriver mechanics in this ambulance business; I think it should be brought under control, and I urge the government to look into this and these other matters as quickly as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to answer a few of the questions. First of all, the questions asked by the Honourable Member from Swan River. I guess he'll be back in a few minutes. I'm just wondering - I wanted to ask him this question: why does he feel that I shot him down? I can't see it, I can't see why he made this comment. Second, he was talking about the cut-off of fat out of Medicare. Well let me tell him and the other members of this House that if there is any fat to cut off medicare, it will be worked to the bare bone. And I did appreciate his love and concern for the retardates. I think if we can just add to this the manpower and the well-earned tax dollars of the people of Manitoba, that we will find a solution for the problems we have so far as retardates in our different homes.

He was concerned about the jails, the improvements - he went along with improvements in our jails with reason. I'm all for this, I think we should improve jails, make them quarters where we can actually work better with inmates, not necessarily to give them more comfort, but to give the facilities to our guards, our workers and so on, in these jails, that we can improve them, that when we let these inmates out that they are better citizens of our province. And I must say here that we are negotiating with the Federal Government now so far as the few problems that we have with our provincial jails and the available space that they have at Stony Mountain.

My honourable friend from Swan River mentioned the needs of the people from the North. Well I'm quite sure that he's much more aware of the needs of the people from the North than I am, because the last trip that we took together up North, I wasn't too well and he helped care for me. But the Northern Task Force - and here, Mr. Chairman, I hope I won't be cut off - will come forth with recommendation. I do want to say that they will receive complete co-operation from this department so far as what we can do for the betterment of the people of the North, so far as health and social development is concerned.

There was mention here of more doctors and dentists should be directed towards the North. Well we have a program under way now. We've had a program for many years, but we're putting more emphasis on our program up North. We've actually announced a few of these already insofar as Churchill is concerned, The Pas, and so on. More is to be announced in the near future.

He mentioned welfare recipients and I repeat that our biggest responsibility lies with our border-line cases. I think the Honourable Member from Swan River mentioned this. I don't believe that we should take them when it's too late. We should actually help the different cases when we first hear about them, and not criticize because we are spending that much more money.

There was a mention about the Honourable Member from Swan River regarding emergency assistance in his riding, in his constituency. This can be granted directly through the Swan River office immediately, the same day. So far as long term assistance is concerned, this is handled through the provincial office and it should be handled within 30 days, no longer. I hope this will help . . .

MR. BLTTON: Will the Honourable Minister permit a question? Is it not so that a family asking for welfare for the first time in the town of Swan River have an obligation to go to the Town Office, and are they on -- I believe they're on there for, what is it, six months, or twelve months, the town must provide for them?

MR. TOUPIN: Yes it is, but I was just informed, Mr. Chairman, that apart from this, if there is an emergency case in your constituency or elsewhere, we're ready to deal with it immediately.

There was a comment here, payment to doctors by the Manitoba Hospital Commission. This seems to be a problem the . . . to be desired, insofar as the honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. I must emphasize that this problem is being looked into immediately. The

April 2, 1970.

(MR. TOUPIN Cont'd) . . . problem that was actually brought forth by yourself regarding payments made to doctors by the Manitoba Hospital Commission is being looked into right at this moment. We've had quite a few complaints and this is one alternative, this is one way to try and correct the more or less unsound situation that we have today, but there are other suggestions that are coming forth now and are being looked at by members of the Hospital Commission and people in my department.

Another question came forth - I'm sorry I should have mentioned this before - regarding the Honourable Member from Swan River. If we're talking about elderly persons' housing and so on, we have to keep in mind that even though this has been added on to the priorities of our government very recently, we just can't go ahead with all these different programs that we have in the province, because of the lack of funds from the Federal Government CMHC. Until we do get further commitments from them, these will be held up unless the different towns are able to raise their portion themselves, and this is being done equally. Some different towns are doing this.

I'm going back to a comment made regarding Manitoba welfare cases, percentages that were given from Calgary. Here are the percentages for our province. Aged and infirm - 66 percent. Mothers with dependent children - 22 percent. Working, with supplementary assistance - 10 percent. Unemployed but unemployable - 2 percent.

The Honourable Member from Wolseley made quite a few comments and recommendations for which I'd like to thank him very sincerely. I equally, during my younger years, had the unfortunate position of having to go into a hospital for many months and had the same type of experience that the Honourable Member from Wolseley is experiencing now, and I do appreciate your comments. So far as your recommendations are concerned, whenever and wherever they are become feasible for our province - and here I say not only our need so far as the people of Manitoba are concerned, but as funds become available - you can be reassured that your priorities as you pointed them out this evening are equally mine. I'd like to include much more under the Medical Insurance Plan, but it's only a question of funds really - how many dollars. We're up to \$144 million now for 1970 - how much more can we add on? This is the only question that we have to have in our minds right now, and here I'm talking about drugs and everything else that you mentioned a while ago. And so far as your medical grants are concerned, I think there's a great need for these in a lot of cases. I think that the different hospital boards have to discuss more of this to be able to discuss this with the Hospital Commission and so on, when they are negotiating. There is certainly a need there.

So far as contributions being made by different individuals, I think this is wonderful. I don't think we can get away from this system, whether we want to include under Medicare or any other system, but in some cases it depends on priorities; it depends on capabilities of different persons who are asked to pay for different things that are much needed. But so far as the ambulance service that you talked about and wanting that this be established through the different hospitals, well I did announce this afternoon that we were going ahead with a public ambulance service for the North. We are equally looking for service for the rest of Manitoba. There's no government policy on this as yet, but your thinking is equally mine so far as the drawings that we have now. I think we should make use of the staff that we have in the hospitals. Why just keep staff, say, on emergency calls without making use of them in the different hospitals? I think the idea is very good.

The Honourable Member from Wolseley made some remarks regarding some factual things that he experienced himself, and it would be a matter for a hospital commission to consider within their total priorities insofar as including different additional coverages under the Medicare Plan. But I would agree in principle with his remarks on physiotherapy and splints and so on, but these are policy matters not yet decided by either my department or the Manitoba Hospital Commission.

..... continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Osborne.

MR. IAN TURNBULL (Osborne): Mr. Chairman, I don't mean to enter into these discussions by means of a prepared statement but I did want to make a few comments. I was beginning to wonder if I was ever going to be able to have an opportunity to speak tonight. The great debate that's going on here on Economic Development Committee's report, for one thing is a debate which I am prevented from speaking on because it's my motion, but tonight I'm very happy that you recognize me.

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Health and Social Development on his new portfolio, a portfolio which I feel he is carrying on adequately, although I understand from speaking to very reliable sources that there are many in the field of social work that are rather perturbed at some comments that he's made relative to the involvement of citizens and individuals in various boards of the voluntary agencies, and I would like him to comment on the passage in his introductory speech in the estimates - and I'll quote it for him - that he intends to "encourage citizen participation on the boards of agencies that receive substantial support from government revenues as well as client representation on the various boards of government agencies and departments." I feel that the administration of - I'm carrying on under considerable handicaps here - I feel that this representation on these boards and agencies of the voluntary organized social work organizations in the province are not necessarily doing a bad job, as would be implied from some of the comments that appear in his speech here and in speeches that he's made to other organizations outside of this House.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that the main purpose of the department which the Minister heads really is to prepare people who find themselves on welfare to come off the welfare roll, and surely that is the intention of an agency devoted to social development. There is very little point in continuing to have people receive welfare payments if the department and its professionals in the department and the various voluntary organizations cannot in some way prepare people to fill a productive role in society and bring them off, as I say, off the welfare roll.

In this light, Mr. Minister, I would like to bring again to your attention a matter that I've raised with you before, and this is the matter of paying for the tuition of mothers who have been deserted and find themselves on Mother's Allowance. The problem, as I understand it from a constituent, is this. The department in the past, and I understand the policy may be under review and may be changed, the policy in the past was that mothers could receive an allowance for transportation out to a university or a school, and could receive also a payment which would cover the cost of paying for a baby sitter for their children while they attended an academic institution. The only problem with this policy, this past policy, Mr. Minister, was that the mother had to pay her own tuition if one was payable, so that we had a situation which, in my mind and certainly in the mind of the woman that I spoke to on this matter, we had a rather ludicrous situation where the department would pay all the costs of a woman on Mother's Allowance who was attending an academic institution, would pay all the costs except the tuition fee. Now to me, Mr. Minister, that is a situation which really prevents individuals from going off of welfare payments. It's a policy which I'm sure would discourage many mothers on Mother's Allowance. And I would like to bring this matter to your attention again tonight and get your comments on it.

The other matter that I think might be pertinent to the objective of your department - the objective that I see for your department - would be this: the publication, granting of greater funds for publicity for the various services that are available to individuals who might be for a short time in need of assistance, either professional guidance or legal advice, say, from a social agency. And I have in mind here the people that the Member from Swan River mentioned, namely mothers who have been deserted by their husbands and find themselves in a position of having to support the family, and find themselves too in a position where they would like to get a divorce, and I understand that certain agencies in the province do provide access to legal advice. But the problem seems to be, Mr. Minister, that many of these women who find themselves in this predicament, really don't know, don't have the, say, the middle class skills, to get the kind of information that they want, and often they find themselves in the clutches of a lawyer who, as the Member from Point Douglas will corroborate if he wishes, who charge rather exorbitant fees for getting a divorce for a woman. So I would like again, Mr. Minister, for you to comment on these two matters.

I would also like you to indicate to the House what the function of the boards of these voluntary agencies might be in the future, what kinds of individuals you might like to see on

(MR. TURNBULL cont'd.) those boards, and what relationship you might see the people on these boards having to the individuals who are in receipt of the services provided by the agencies.

Another point that I think might well be overlooked in the discussions on your estimates, is the evaluation of the policies and the programs that are undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Development. I find that - I think, anyway, I find that there's been very little change in the kind of evaluation of programs that is carried out in Health and Social Services, very little change, for that matter, in the kind of evaluations carried out in any department of its on-going program. And this particular aspect of government administration is of major concern to me - as a matter of fact, it's the prime reason that I'm in the political arena - because the past administration was one which seemed to go ahead without any consideration of the needs, without any consideration of the alternate program that might be available, and we saw a classic example of that, I think, in the previous administration's approach to South Indian Lake on a single-purpose basis rather than on a multiple-purpose basis. So I would like, Mr. Minister, if you would comment on what kind of on-going evaluation is undertaken of the programs of your department and in particular if you would relate this to the Bureau of Research in its function, I would be most happy.

These few questions then, Mr. Minister, are really all that I have to ask of you, and I hope that you can find time to give them some consideration.

I'd like to turn to those comments made by the Member from Swan River, who seems to have left the Chamber. I don't see him. He was pointing out that he was in his old fashioned way much concerned about the abuses of the medical care program, at least that's my interpretation of what he had to say. His concern seemed to be founded on perhaps his own particular prejudice. I didn't hear him cite any particular abuses. I would like him to recall that one of the reasons why this government was elected was not to prevent the abuses of the medical care program as it now exists, but to in some way prevent the government from abusing the people, and it seemed to me, Mr. Chairman, that in the past particularly with the introduction of the medical care premium by the previous administration that is exactly what the government was doing. It was abusing the people. And I know, Mr. Chairman, from going through my constituents, a practice which I very much like to carry on, I know that that medical care program as introduced by the previous administration did abuse many people. I know that many people -- and I've made this speech before. I'm getting like the Member from River Heights, I make the same speech every time I get up -- I know that those people, many of them older people were in the position of having to give up their homes which they'd struggled to pay for, because the previous administration saw fit to introduce a premium system of taxation rather than a tax system based on the ability to pay.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Who's raising the taxes now?

MR. TURNBULL: And I would point out to my hoary old friend there from - where is it you're from? -- (Interjections) -- Birtle-Russell . . . that perhaps he might consider that the purpose of the government is to serve the people, the majority of the people, not just those who are earning over 11,000 a year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I hope I do not have too much competition from other discussions that are being carried on at the present time.

First of all, I would also like to congratulate the Minister on assuming his office as Minister of Health and Welfare. The previous Minister didn't last too long and I hope he has a longer stay though in his present office as the previous one had. Although I think there was a purpose behind the change and maybe we'll find that the previous Minister will come up with some 25, 50 million dollars from natural resources to help pay the cost of the Department of Health and Welfare. I'm looking forward to seeing the bill that will be introduced in that respect and see whether anything is coming out of it. At least this is the hunch I had that something would come forward as a result. -- (Interjection) -- I'd appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, I too wish to congratulate the Minister and also his Deputy and the other workers in his department, because I'm sure that there are many and that they do very valuable work to the people of this province. There are so many things that one could say and I hardly know where to commence or start my discussion. I did get a copy of the Federal estimates for the current year and just checking out how much money Manitoba's going to get and whether we're getting our share or will be getting our share, and I find in some respects there

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) are cuts being made and I'm just wondering, why do these cuts come about. Some are quite substantial, I noticed one of around 400,000. What are the reasons for these cuts? What about the medical insurance program as such? Last year we were told the costs would be around 28, 29 million dollars. We find in the estimates now that they're budgeting for \$30 million which is an increase from the 11 million that was budgeted for last year although then in addition to that 11 million we had the premiums to supplement that. How much did we actually get in premiums last year during the time that the premiums were in effect? I think we should have some accounting of what took place and where we stand with this program.

I note from the Federal estimates that they figure that the total program for Canada will cost a billion, 220 million dollars. This is quite a heavy burden on the Federal budget when we know that this represents roughly 10 percent of the Federal budget as such. Here in Manitoba it doesn't come to that amount, but we don't know whether the present estimates will suffice and to what extent this program will be growing on us. I wonder if the Minister could give us some information as to how much the hospitalization premiums amount to, will amount to for the ensuing year, and what other contributions enter into this program that we will be getting from the Federal government, and just how much our own contribution as a province is going to be. In past years we've received this information when we met in committee, and I feel that we should have some idea as to what is being proposed and what is going to happen.

Then, what about construction? What is being planned in the way of hospital construction for the coming year? When I come into Winnipeg I note at the university the hospital is going up. No doubt monies were set aside last year for that, and how much more money is being set aside for that this year? And what other hospitals will be constructed? I feel that in certain instances we could do a lot with a very little money by alterations and renovations in certain smaller hospitals. I know the Minister has a request from the Winkler Hospital for renovation, which is a minor one, yet it would do a lot for that particular hospital for the increased services that they could provide as a result. And the figure is small, something like \$8,000. So I think we should not lose sight in the overall program, that if we do construct new hospitals that at the same time we certainly do not restrict these minor renovations or alterations to existing hospitals so that they can provide a better service. I hope the Minister will give favourable consideration to that particular request.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister a few items concerning the Welfare Department. One thing that has irked me and bothered me for some time has to do with a certain matter. I think I should quote just what I have in mind here and probably some other members have been affected likewise. I tried to put the question to the Minister the other day. I was not allowed to give an explanation and therefore he could not give the answer to it as a result; so I thought I would at this time bring the matter forward, so that he could reply in committee. I object to the practice of charging the difference of any increases in allowances that may result when a person reaches the age of 65 or when other pensions are increased back to the recipient retroactively. Example: A person is in receipt of a social allowance allocation. At a certain day he reaches the age of 65 and receives his first pension cheque. He is unaware that adjustments will be made consequently in his social allowance allocation and to what extent. The provincial department may be slow in catching up. I do not know whether the Federal Government advises the provincial department ahead of time of these situations when they arise. At any rate the provincial department has the right and no doubt has the information on their files when these people become 65 and are entitled to a pension. At this point the pensioner receives his cheque and most likely spends it, at least that's the way I have found things; then the Provincial Government comes along and reclaims part of that money as an overpayment and prorates it on a monthly basis. I think this practice should stop. If the department cannot keep abreast and can't take action in time, they should not collect later and reduce the allowances as a result, because this becomes a constant grief to members of this House, because they're contacted then, they're the ones that are asked to explain. I feel the amount involved is a very minor one, it only happens once in a person's lifetime, so I feel that this practice should be discontinued.

As I already pointed out the money probably has been spent on other things and now they have to skimp and trying to make ends meet. Therefore, I not only request, I would urge the department to end this practice, and if that is not correct I would like the Minister to explain the procedure that is taking place because this is the way I find it.

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)

Pass that one? Well, I'm glad the Minister of Finance is in agreement with the suggestion, so if the Minister of Health is in favour as well then we'll get help.

Another item. I would ask the Minister to produce simple budgets to us in committee, city versus rural social allowance cases. How do they compare? Are there extra or increased allowances for city recipients in connection with rent, recreation, entertainment, food, Medicare cards to cover items not covered under Medicare at present? I take it that this is still in existence, this program, whereby certain people receive Medicare cards to cover all bills, not only those presently covered by the medical care insurance. Just what is the case? Because it seems to me that there is a difference between the city and the country and that the country people are still treated as the poor country cousins. They are farther away from the government offices, not readily accessible to them, and therefore the services are naturally slower, the visits by the department are most likely fewer, and so, all around, you do not have the same service in rural parts especially further away from Winnipeg.

Then, too, as far as the members are concerned, I think the largest number of our calls have to do with welfare and social allowances and so on. These are the cases that come up to you. The people call you constantly whenever there's the slightest difference of opinion or matter concerned. I certainly would like to hear from the Minister on this point, whether that is not the case, and if it is not the case then I want to be assured of it that that is so.

Further, recently - and this is not the first time - I was confronted with a case where one member of a party, or a couple in receipt of social allowances or pensions, one of them passed away and naturally the cost of the funeral was there to be paid for and looked after. I am now told that the department only pays a portion or a certain amount. Is that correct, and does that amount differ too between city and province? Is there a difference there, because what are these people going to do when the funeral costs a certain amount, the Welfare Department only picks up part of the tab? Is a funeral director supposed to take care of the rest? Is he to write it off, or is it proper for the party concerned, or those left behind, to go to the municipality and ask for assistance? Who is liable in this case and who does look after that balance?

It is these minor things that irks members, and I think not only me but other members, if they are confronted with these things, and I think we need not have this situation at all. I think we can do away with it. I think the people in the department that are responsible should not slough these things off but take care of them so that they would not be brought up to us continually, and I feel this especially so because now we have a New Democratic government that used to sit on this side of the House, especially where I sit now, and they were the big champions of the under-privileged, of the poor people, and they used to say so and so, we will take care of this, we would do this, we would do that, and I feel, now that they are the government, certainly they should do something about these things and not just leave them and let things persist in this way.

Then, another matter; last fall we approved an allocation of one million dollars increase toward welfare. Where did this money go? I told some of our people back home that they stood to have a six or seven percent increase; that's what it amounted to. Nothing came about. Some of them didn't get anything. Where did the money go?

MR. GREEN: Not one nickel for Rhineland!

MR. FROESE: Let's hear from the Minister where that particular money went. And I noticed in the estimates there's an increase allocated under that item of 2.3 million. Where's that 2.3 million going? Is it for an increased number of people or is there going to be an increase in the amount per person that is presently on allowance?

MR. GREEN: There was an increase in the amount.

MR. FROESE: Pardon? It was an increase in the amount?

MR. GREEN: More people, that's right.

MR. FROESE: Well, I would like to hear from the Minister just where those increases did go because I haven't been able to find out because no one has told me and -- (Interjection) -- Well, I hope to have answers from the Minister on these points.

This other one, the next item, it'll probably not interest him so much or I'm not just sure what the reaction will be. I doubt whether the former Minister would go for this, but I would like to know, and I think the honourable members of this House should know. We would like to get a list of all those in receipt of social allowances on a constituency basis and the

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) monthly assistance provided to the individual. How else can we as members assess the situation? How else can we offer any way of improvement? How can we make any suggestions that really count or that would really be worthwhile putting forward if we do not have this information? I think we are at a loss to help the situation, and yet we should be the ones who should know and who should be able to make recommendations in this regard, because I think this is one of the departments that has been growing, the cost of it has been growing every year. There hasn't been a single year when the cost of welfare in Manitoba and hospitalization hasn't gone up. Every year. It used to be around \$4 million annually then all of a sudden it went up by 5, 7, 12 in one year, and then Medicare came in. Now we have a slight increase this year; it's not too large; maybe they over-rated the cost last year that there's a small surplus there that they can use this year - maybe that's the situation - and that we have not got the same increase that we've had in other years, but I think this information that I was just requesting should come forward, and if the Minister's not willing or able to give it to us, I think we should probably file an Order for Return to get it because we as members should know more about our local situation, how does it compare with other constituencies, and where are the sore points, and how can we go about to improve the situation. I hope we will hear from the Minister on this.

Another matter that I would briefly like to touch on has to do with the two-year nurses' course. Was it a year or two ago that we changed over from the three-year course, as far as the registered nurses were concerned, to a two-year course? I would like to hear from the Minister how the course is working out. Are we getting sufficient experience in the two years that these people are training as a registered nurse? Have they got the time to apply the knowledge and the theory that they're being taught during this time, because when I talked to certain people in the administrative situation in connection with hospitals and other places where they need the nurses, they questioned this, and I just wonder what the situation is. I'm sure the department should know because they will be in contact with the various hospitals as to the situation and the effect this has.

Then, too, on the matter of importing or recruiting nurses from other countries. Are they meeting the qualifications? Just what is their stay - how long do they stay? Are they moving back and forward? What portion of the travelling and moving costs do we pay as a province toward these nurses that are being recruited? If there is constant movement about back and forth, are we getting value? I am sure that they have been of great assistance, the nurses that have come forward from other countries and have assisted us in our program; I'm sure that we wouldn't have been able to get by without many of these. I think it's been of great value to our province and our country as a whole that many of these people did come forward and help us when we were in dire need.

I'm probably ranging far and wide over the field but I have one further item that I wish to discuss at this particular time, then maybe I'll leave the matter open for others to participate. This has to do with the retardates, and they've already been mentioned here tonight. We have a workshop at Winkler, we have another one at Altona, both in the Rhineland constituency, and they have been working out very well indeed. Winkler is at the present time constructing a new workshop next to the Eden Mental Health Centre and this shop needs considerable money for construction and capital purposes, and at the last session a year ago I requested that some capital assistance be provided to these workshops. We are providing money to such centres as Portage and Selkirk; why can't we provide some money to the other areas as well? I don't think we should confine ourselves to just a few central points. I think a program of this type is worthy of support in all areas and not just in a few. I know the people in our area have been very receptive. They have given great assistance to these organizations and the people concerned, and the officers of those organizations I'm sure deserve a lot of credit and a lot of thanks from the people of this province and from the government itself. Not too long ago they had Johnny Bower Night in Winkler, at which time they raised considerable monies for that particular project, and I feel that we should try and assist these organizations in helping the less fortunate so that they can perform some type of useful work in their life and not be a burden on society but become an asset. I know the local municipalities are supporting these organizations and these workshops on a per capita basis as to the number of people working in these shops and are assisting them in this way, and I feel that we should do likewise. We should give them, not only moral, but also some financial support.

Mr. Chairman, these are some of the remarks that I thought I should make in my opening

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) comments. We did receive the report the other day. It's a very thick and lengthy report. Having to speak on the various different departments I find it impossible for me to go through all the reports in short order and therefore I haven't read everything in it, but I thought these matters that I did bring forward should be looked after.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Minister would sooner reply now without closing debate, I am willing. Do you want to? Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I first of all would like to congratulate the Minister on his appointment. I realize that he has a very difficult task, with the number of people that he has employed and with the amount of money he's spending. It is no doubt a difficult task and I wish him well in his work. He has the largest department and the largest staff, and I'm wondering what percentage of total amount is spent in administration of the budget.

I noticed that the budget has increased over 46-1/2 million and this, compared to agriculture, is a terrible increase, and I'm just wondering why so much and I am concerned that there is such a large increase. Contrary to a lot of the other members, I'm just not so much for all this welfare. It seems to me that some of the comments I made on the Throne Speech should be applied now, some of the things I said such as the government taking from the doers and the savers and giving to the lazy and the spenders. I don't want to give the impression that I've hit on any magic words but I'd like to tell you that since the time of those remarks I've had many phone calls and letters from people that agreed with my stand, and by the way, I never had anybody that phoned me up or wrote me that criticized me for them. I guess probably the statement that I made that I would have let them starve a little if they refused to work - and notice that I said "refused to work" - or wouldn't work, must have affected many people and made them realize that the hard-working person has less money to spend than some of the people on welfare.

I should like to make it clear, however, that I am not opposed to helping people who need it. Far from that, I believe that they should be helped and that they should be encouraged to become self-supporting. The Minister has said, and possibly I have this wrong, but I thought he said one time that 5.4 percent that are on relief just wouldn't work. I may have that wrong. Later on I thought I heard you say 2.7 and you may have been referring to a different part. But at any rate, if this amount alone could be taken care of, it would be quite a savings, but I think that if it was policed a little bit more that you'd find there was a far bigger amount of savings to be made and that there's far more on welfare. (The Minister has said that it's 2 percent - well, somewhere along the line somebody has quoted the other figure and I've got mixed up on it, I guess.)

I want to make it clear that it is not welfare in its proper sense that I am opposed to, but the abuses that are going on in welfare. I have heard it said that it takes more to police it than you can save. I don't really believe that story; I just wouldn't believe it. I think myself that if the people that were administering welfare were a little bit tougher on their people that go out, it would make a lot of difference. The Minister and many of his staff have become obsessed with the job they're doing. They think that because they're being generous that they're very fine people. Their job becomes an obsession to them. I would like to put it this way: It is a lot nicer to be a good fellow when you're giving away other people's money, and this is maybe what some of those people think.

I don't want to leave the impression that I've no heart at all for the poor and the needy. I also know that there have been many good things mentioned which I could possibly repeat. However, I don't see any need of repeating any of the good things here tonight or giving any encouragement, because the group over there, and it seems as if a large majority in the House, are seeming to want to hand out more. I think that we should watch it, folks, or we'll be drifting from not only a socialist type of a province but a welfare type of province.

The Honourable Member from Point Douglas, when he seconded the Throne Speech, made comments about non-medical and illegal drugs. Practically everybody complimented him on his remarks. I hope all of the members meant what they said, and I hope that you and your department will see to it that this is controlled more in the years ahead. Anyone who has children starting in the university these days must shudder as he reads some of the things in the paper that he does and sees some of the programs and the different things on TV which he sees. Only yesterday we heard on the news of a boy 21 years old jumping to his death from

(MR. HENDERSON cont'd.) the dome of the House of Commons in Ottawa, and it was said that drugs were involved. We have read of people who have taken their lives and have left notes saying that it was because of the influence of drugs that they were taking their life. We must do more to see that the peddlers of non-medical and illegal drugs are punished, and punished more severely. I feel sure that all of you people in the House will support this and I hope that the Minister sees that something is done about this in his program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MR. TOUPIN: I thought the House Leader was going to call it 10:00 o'clock but I guess not.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a few comments on the questions that were raised by the Honourable Member from Osborne; my colleague the Honourable Member from Osborne. I thought I'd had enough of my friends on the other side, but I guess -- (Interjection) -- That's right. First of all, he's talking about encouragement by citizens participating on boards and agencies, and who do I mean by this. Well, I think the Honourable Member from Osborne was making reference to a statement that I made a few days ago of the Family Bureau, when I emphasized that I certainly do recognize the value of the job that has been done by the many many board members of various agencies in Manitoba, but I stress that I am only trying to find out that I cannot support, nor will I -- I didn't say tolerate; I said continue the procedure by which public funds are given to private agencies to do with as they please when the boards do not in any way represent the interest of the consumers or local residents. Well I feel I just had to emphasize on this . . .

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Chairman, is the Minister reading his own comments or is this government policy he's reading?

MR. TOUPIN: This is my comment. I feel, Mr. Chairman, if we're going to say this, we should equally say that we should have consumers and local residents on these different boards making the majority of the board. I think this is only fair. If we talk of credit unions, most of the members on the boards of the credit unions are -- well all of them are members of the credit unions and so on. I think my honourable friend from Rhineland would agree to this.

So far as tuition fees for mothers, deserted wives and so on, I think we can help them - I'm very serious in saying this - we can help them through the plan that we have for help for people 18 years old and over, and apart from that, the present policy - and this is a policy - we will cover tuition fees and living costs to help mothers to get training to be able to work. So I hope this answers the honourable member's question.

MR. TURNBULL: Will the Minister permit a question? When was this policy introduced?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I haven't got the exact date here, but I'll supply it to my honourable colleague.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Actually, as a clarification, if we can just go back over the Medicare premiums, I believe the Progressive Conservative Government collected this premium for the first month. The first bill came out on June 15th, and in my recollection the NDP government collected this premium at the same rate for another five months, until November. Now the Member for Osborne has stated that this was such a hardship on some of the elderly people in his constituency that they had to sell their homes to pay the premiums. I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many of these people there were, and can this information be substantiated for us?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, I'll have to come to that later. I can't give you an answer on that now. You don't expect me to have answers for all the questions, eh? I'm going to leave my honourable colleague for a few minutes and go to the Honourable Leader of the Social Credit Party, I mean the Honourable Member from Rhineland. He was talking about cuts being made by the Federal Government regarding medical insurance programs and so on. Well I have a few figures here that were supplied to me by my capable staff that are looking at me upstairs.

First of all, the total cost for the hospital plan is \$88.5 million. This was said, I think, yesterday. The financing of this, the premium is \$24 million, the province is paying 21.5, the Federal Government 43 million, for a total of 88.5.

On the Medical Plan, the total cost is \$55 million. The financing is, province - 30.1 million; federal - 21.3; and the premiums 3.6; for a total of 55 million.

So far as hospital construction for 1970-71 I will not give you the list on these now. I don't think I should implicate either the Manitoba Hospital Commission or this government in

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd.) revealing the names of the different hospitals that we have in mind for 1970. But I must say, Mr. Chairman, that the request of the Honourable Member for Rhineland regarding the hospital for Winkler, a small amount of \$8,000, I think we should have a look at it. This is all I can say. We should have a close look at it.

Now, there was a question equally on funeral charges and so on. The same rate applies in the city as it does in the rural areas under the social allowance regulations. For an adult it's \$175.00 plus costs or fee for the interment.

MR. FROESE: What does plus costs mean?

MR. TOUPIN: Plus costs or fee for the interment.

MR. FROESE: That's all?

MR. TOUPIN: That's all. Another question regarding social allowance to persons in cities, is it the same as in rural areas. That was the question asked I think equally by the Honourable Member from Rhineland. The actual amount paid may vary by cost of utilities. The rent, food, clothing and so on. Again, Mr. Froese asked a question - persons on social allowances reaching the age of 65. He gets his first cheque at the end of the month; social allowance paid on the first of the month; we disregard the first month pension cheque; normal practice - this is a normal practice in the Department of Health and Social Services? The problem occurs when we don't know that the person is getting his pension cheque, but this is in very few cases. It does happen and we're trying to get around this problem. Last fall, we increased allowance for food, clothing, rent for approximately 10 percent. So actually there's an additional, I think the figures -- I haven't got the figures in front of me but I think it's \$3.5 million. This is an increase being paid on allowances, existing allowances, apart from the additional cases that we will be getting now. I think it's 10:00 o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GREEN: I move the Committee rise, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply wishes to report progress and begs leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 10:00 o'clock and the House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. (Friday)