

Supply—Northern Affairs

and some members of the previous ministry with regard to the need for the construction of the new Charles Camsell hospital. Fortunately, I believe the right decision was taken, but I now find it somewhat regrettable that the deputy minister of the department charged with the administration of this hospital seems, as reported in the press, to deny the very principle of the existence of the hospital.

I would suggest that there be a close association with those people who would use the hospital and who would point out the need for the hospital today. I am not denying that perhaps 25 years from now what the deputy minister was speaking about will be a lot truer than it is today. I only wish to underline again the absolute necessity for the full implementation of the program for the Charles Camsell hospital as laid out by the Secretary of State when she was minister of national health and welfare.

I think it would be a most retrograde step to suddenly tell these people that they will now have to go out and be treated in the community hospitals. Anyone who suggests that this would be efficacious today and would meet the needs and desires of these people is merely sitting off in an ivory tower.

• (4:20 p.m.)

I had many discussions with members of the Glassco Commission who actually recommended the discontinuation of the Charles Camsell hospital, and although I have the greatest respect for them, and particularly for the member with whom I had most of the discussions, I feel that their heads are in the clouds. I should like to urge the Minister responsible for northern and Indian affairs to support the continuation and full implementation of the hospital program in regard to the Charles Camsell hospital, which is due to open later on this summer. I think this hospital is a great necessity for the people for whom it is built.

Miss LaMarsh: Since my name was brought into the discussion might I say that I consider the construction of the new Charles Camsell hospital as somewhat of a personal triumph, since the former administration had accepted the recommendation of the Glassco Commission and cancelled its construction.

Mr. Lambert: Temporarily.

Miss LaMarsh: The government lost office shortly after, so they could not do anything about it. When I was in health and welfare I

was told about this hospital and the officials of the department at that time certainly believed the hospital should be constructed. It was their persuasiveness, as much as the hon. member's, which sent me to Edmonton to look into the situation. From that time onward I became a devout exponent of the construction of that hospital, particularly because of the fact that so many of the northern peoples did not know our language and had no experience of living in institutions with all the varied facilities. Many doctors felt it would assist them to return to health faster if they were in a place where others of their kind who speak the same language were around. I did not hear what Dr. Crawford apparently said to the committee recently, but I should like to say to my hon. friend as well as to my seatmate and colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, that I strongly believe that this hospital should continue to operate for the people of the north.

I pledge that my successor in health and welfare will have to have a very good argument for doing otherwise.

Mr. Southam: I welcome this opportunity to make a few remarks on vote 35 dealing with the current estimates of the department of Indian affairs. My remarks deal with one or two matters. The minister, who I notice has his parliamentary secretary with him this afternoon, will recall that the hon. member for Saskatoon and the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggan as well as I myself have recently questioned the minister several times regarding the ultimate outcome of the application of the Indians in Saskatchewan regarding the Indian shrine, Mistaseni, near the south Saskatchewan dam. The minister is aware that if some action is not taken in the not too distant future this shrine will be inundated when the waters of the dam rise. Apparently this is of great importance to the Indians living in that part of Canada. I believe the Historic Sites and Monuments Board have already met and presented recommendations to the minister with respect to historic sites. The importance of this shrine does not only lie in Indian lore but also in its religious aspect.

I also wish to bring up the matter in regard to the White Bear reservation in my riding. Owing to my close association with around 700 to 800 Indians in that reservation, this matter was brought to my attention. In