

Supply—Health and Welfare

responsibility. Our role is one of co-ordination and supplementary assistance.

We have sought to give emphasis to two things in this field. First is prevention and treatment. We now have in existence some 105 mental health clinics, whereas when this program began eight years ago there were only 15. The purpose of these clinics is to reach the mentally ill person before his illness takes on a maturity which justifies confinement. These clinics, together with the child guidance clinics we have established on a pilot basis in a number of centres, are proving most valuable in our program of prevention.

The second aspect to which we are seeking to give emphasis is in the field of research. My hon. friend has mentioned the Allan Memorial institute in Montreal, which is carrying on most important research work. We are giving grants to other places for this purpose as well. My hon. friend may be assured, as indeed the committee may be assured, of our great interest in this problem. I have always felt, and I feel and say now, that one of the ways in which we of the western world can demonstrate our capacity to provide a desirable form of society is by the interest we take not only in this particular matter but in all matters having to do with health.

I want to pay tribute to the voluntary organizations in this country for the work they have done in the field of mental health, and I want to pay a special tribute to the Salvation Army. I know some of the work they do, as does the hon. member for Brandon-Souris, particularly in the city of Toronto. I repeat my tribute to them as well as to all religious bodies for the work that is being done.

Item agreed to.

Grants to health organizations—

265. Canadian mental health association, \$10,000.

Mr. Zaplitny: What procedure is followed in deciding whether a grant shall be made under this item? Is application made to the federal government, or does the province in which the organization is located make an application on its behalf?

Mr. Martin: There is a variety of methods. Most of them come to see us personally, and where it is said to be a national organization we seek to establish whether in fact it is such. An organization may have a name which suggests it is national in scope when actually it is regional or even community in scope.

Mr. Zaplitny: What criteria are used to decide whether an organization is national in character?

[Mr. Martin.]

Mr. Martin: If they carry on operations in all provinces or in a greater number of provinces.

Item agreed to.

266. Health league of Canada, \$10,000.

Mr. Knowles: During the sittings of the committee on estimates several hon. members asked the minister if consideration was being given to increasing the grant to the Health League of Canada. I have not the record before me, but my recollection is that the minister gave one of those kindly answers in which he paid tribute to those carrying on this work. Has his kindness reached the point where he will recommend an increase in this grant?

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend will appreciate that we get many requests and have only so much money. I can only say in regard to these grants, some of which are shown here and some of which are still under consideration, that they are matters that are considered in the department. When we come to prepare our estimates next year I shall be in a better position to give my hon. friend an answer. I can assure him of my great sympathy with the work of the Health League of Canada.

Item agreed to.

Welfare branch—

Family allowances and old age security—

278. Administration, \$2,693,059.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to repeat at length the points I made when I spoke yesterday on the first item with respect to the amount paid to our old age pensioners. Neither is it my intention to get involved in the arguments which developed this morning when the supplementary payments made in the various provinces were being discussed. Rather I rise simply to remind the minister that in the view of an increasing number of Canadians it is the responsibility of the federal government to see to it that our Canadian senior citizens have a decent standard of living.

As far as I am concerned, it does not help the case of our senior citizens when hon. members suggest that part of this responsibility should be borne by the provinces. As I said yesterday, when you put any portion of this responsibility on the provinces you are calling for a reinstatement of the means test, at least to a certain extent. The only jurisdiction with sufficient resources to provide old age pensions on a universal basis for all Canadians as of right is the federal government.