

Ontario, for example, the premium system is used with monthly charges amounting to \$2.10 for a single person and \$4.20 for a married person with dependents. In most provinces, coverage is mandatory but in Ontario it is compulsory only for employees working in groups of 15 or more, and voluntary for other residents of the province. Even so, with this voluntary element present, well over 90 per cent of Ontario residents are covered by the plan...

"A number of other facts about Canada's insurance programme should probably be mentioned to round out the picture. By next January, it will have achieved truly nation-wide scope. The one remaining province, Quebec, expects to be ready to participate at that time and this will climax a process which began back in July, 1958, when the first five provinces got this historic measure under way. I might add that, besides our ten provinces, Canada's two territories -- the Yukon and the Northwest Territories -- are also participating in the plan, thereby bringing benefits of the programme within the reach of Canadians even in our remote Arctic.

"Another significant point is the fact that under the federal legislation it is required that every resident of a participating province be eligible for benefits on uniform terms and conditions. Matters of age, health and economic circumstances are wholly irrelevant. Moreover, coverage is effective for stay in hospital for any length of time specified as medically necessary. Because of variations between provincial programmes regarding entitlement to benefits, arrangements have been worked out to ensure against loss of protection for people leaving one province to live in another. Incidentally, Canadians visiting the United States carry their coverage with them in certain circumstances and particularly in the event of a sudden illness.

#### TECHNICAL AID

"Finally, the Federal Government not only provides financial assistance to provincial programmes but also furnishes, through my Department, technical aid in such matters as efficiency of operation, maintenance and improvement of standards of hospital care, and research activities related to the improvement of hospital services. This technical assistance takes the form both of advisory services by our consultants and of financial help through the national health grants.

"The whole programme obviously involves close liaison between the two levels of government, and it is here, as I pointed out earlier, that we have been most fortunate in already having developed the necessary network of communication and co-operation. Building on the precedents of the past, the medium of federal-provincial technical conferences was instituted at an early stage in the programme's development. This has recently been formalized into a permanent Advisory Committee

to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. This Committee, together with a number of technical sub-committees, is now the basic vehicle of federal-provincial consultation. Its main job is to work out ways and means of operating efficient and economic programmes which will at the same time provide the highest possible standards of care...."

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#### AID DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Prime Minister Diefenbaker recently issued the following statement:

"In recent years the responsibilities for Canada's economic assistance has been divided between the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Trade and Commerce, with co-operation by the Department of Finance.

"Recently the idea of economic assistance to under-developed countries has acquired a new significance and attraction for a lengthening list of prospective recipients and potential donors.

"It has been decided that the administration and operation of aid programmes, in the interests of efficient and expeditious administration and to assure a sound and productive use of the aid programmes, should be placed under one head. An external-aid office will be established in charge of an officer to be known as Director-General of External Aid Programmes. Under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, his responsibilities will be as follows:

(a) The operation and administration of Canada's assistance programmes covered by the general aid votes of the Department of External Affairs;

(b) To keep these programmes under constant review and, as appropriate, to prepare recommendations on them and related matters to Cabinet; to prepare submissions to Treasury Board on financial questions relating to economic assistance;

(c) To ensure co-ordination in the operations of other Departments and agencies of government concerned with various aspects of economic assistance programmes;

(d) To consult and co-operate as appropriate with international organizations and agencies;

(e) To consult and co-operate as appropriate with Canadian voluntary agencies active in under-developed countries;

(f) To co-ordinate Canadian efforts to provide emergency assistance in the case of disasters abroad; for this purpose to achieve the necessary liaison with the Canadian Red Cross Society and other appropriate Canadian organizations;

(g) To be responsible for the internal administration of the External Aid office; and

(h) To perform such other duties as may be required in relation to Canada's external assistance programme.