

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the wish of the House that we call it one o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

At 12.58 p.m. the House took recess.

[English]

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Hillsborough.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Mr. Speaker, having spoken at such length, with perception and persuasion, before lunch, I rest my case.

**Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, really in amazement, to speak with respect to motions Nos. 6, 7 and 8. I cannot understand how the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) can really expect the Canadian people to believe that it is sensible to move a motion to reduce the funds to \$1 in respect of the New Horizons Program, not only in terms of administrative expenses which are dealt with in Vote 35a, but in Vote 40a which deals with grant funds totalling \$6,150,000. This program is clearly in the interests of the elderly citizens of Canada, not only by providing them with a method and a technique for improving their lot in life but by giving them some degree of interest in working on projects which will help them and their communities.

To be more specific in relation to Vote 35a, which is for the sum of \$850,000, I just do not understand the purpose of this motion because in the past—

**Mr. Nielsen:** It isn't a motion; it is a notice so that we can debate the item.

**Mr. Cafik:** In the recent past there has been considerable discussion about the Opportunities for Youth program and LIP, in terms of whether they were administered in the best possible way. This \$850,000 is provided for proper administration of the New Horizons program. I suppose if the Conservatives had their way on this particular motion we would vote the \$6,150,000, with no one to administer the program because they would wipe out the \$850,000 for administration.

The ratio of operating expenses to grant contributions in this program is 12.14 per cent. This is not an abnormal amount for overhead, especially in the start-up phase when heavy expenditures can be expected for staff, capital outlays and advertising. Originally a figure of less than 15 per cent was aimed at in order to try to contain these expenses. Actually, 12 per cent was provided, and this was rounded off to \$850,000. It must be stressed that the department does not have previous experience in this particular type of program upon which it can draw in

#### Supply

reaching groups of elderly people, to assist them in becoming involved in community activities. In addition, the program had not yet begun to operate, and there was no practical experience respecting such operating costs. It could well be that once the peak of initial expenditures has been reached, the ratio of operating costs to contributions may be considerably less. However, I think it is only realistic to understand that it could even be more.

In my opinion, 12 per cent in operating costs does not seem unreasonable. This covers such things as overhead, salaries and wages. It is anticipated that there will be a staff of about 15 people involved with an average wage of \$11,000 per man year. The estimate provides for \$72,000 for transportation and communications cost and \$172,000 for information programs involving the publication of bulletins and advertising in newspapers, on radio and television so that our elderly people will know about this program and be able to take advantage of it. There is provision for \$425,000 for professional services. That sum will provide for highly qualified staff to be retained, whose services will cost between \$12,000 and \$20,000 per year in salary. Such persons will be chosen as have skills in working with retired persons' groups to assess the value of projects and assist in their planning. In addition there is a budget of \$17,000 for the rental of equipment. Materials and supplies to equip regional offices amounts to \$63,000, and other expenditures are provided to the extent of \$12,000, with a view to helping local national groups to formulate objectives and policies with respect to the program.

• (1410)

Vote 40a, in the amount of \$2,685,000, supplies the balance of funds that were not previously allocated, to make up the total budget under the New Horizons program for the balance of this year to \$7 million. Such programs are very worthwhile for the elderly people of this country. So far this year 53 grants have been approved for \$293,000, involving 7,500 retired persons. Last December the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) announced 78 grants which involved \$578,486 and covered some 10,000 people. So, the total number of people deriving benefit from this program now is in excess of 17,000.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cafik:** It is anticipated that this program will be used in all provinces of Canada. May I dwell on that point for a moment. The anticipated expenditures by provinces, are as follows: In the Yukon and Northwest Territories, in excess of \$4,000; in British Columbia, in excess of \$722,000; in Alberta, \$418,000; in Saskatchewan, \$333,000; in Manitoba, \$337,000; in Ontario, \$2,271,000; in Quebec, \$1,456,000; in New Brunswick, \$193,000; in Nova Scotia, \$255,000; in Prince Edward Island, \$43,000; and in Newfoundland, \$113,000, for a total of \$6,150,000. It is estimated that this amount will be paid by the Department of National Health and Welfare to provide meaningful activities for our elderly people right across Canada.

I cannot understand how anyone in this House could suggest that this item ought to be reduced to \$1.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.