

Mr. CLAXTON: The question raised by the hon. member for Kamloops has been raised by a number of other hon. members through whom hospitals made application for assistance from the federal government. On that matter the constitutional position is very clear. Paragraph 7 of section 92 of the British North America Act places squarely within the jurisdiction of the provinces responsibility for hospitalization, and the legal position has been in accordance with the position during the seventy-seven years that we have had confederation. The only federal assistance that I know of that has been given to hospitals has been in connection with the discharge of federal responsibility. The federal government has exercised responsibility for hospitalization of members of the armed forces, veterans, sick mariners, immigrants, and Indians, and in respect of quarantine and leprosy. I think I am right in saying that a grant has never been made to a hospital by the federal government except in the cases I have indicated or others in which there is a federal aspect. In connection with the proposed introduction of health insurance on a nation-wide basis, it was recognized that there would have to be a wide extension of hospital facilities. The dominion proposals to the conference, at page 36 of the green book, provide for financial assistance in the construction of hospitals. That assistance was to be in the form of loans made through the provinces at or near cost.

It is greatly to be regretted that there has not been agreement. All I can say is that the question is being considered and that any further proposals the federal government may make in this as in other matters growing out of the conference will be made by the Minister of Finance at the time of introducing his budget, or at some time consequent on its introduction.

With regard to the hospital at Kamloops, the hon. member has made representations with regard to the matter, and it has been twice before an interdepartmental committee to see if the federal interest in the position was sufficient to justify a grant. I must say that we found the position to be very much like that of hundreds of other hospitals. It is used occasionally by veterans or members of the armed forces or Indians, but there is no special federal interest in that hospital which would justify its being treated differently from other hospitals across Canada.

Mr. FULTON: That is why I was not trying to discuss the local issue here to-night, although I was hoping that in the minister's remarks I might find a ray of hope for our hospital. The minister said that it might be made

the subject of an announcement at the time of the budget. Does that mean that he is not in a position to say whether it is intended to make separate representations or to reach an agreement of this sort with the provinces outside the general conference? Can he say whether special consultations could be held so that recommendations of the nature of those contained in the letter I have read could be worked out?

Mr. CLAXTON: I can assure the hon. member that the representations will be given the most serious consideration, but I am not in a position to go farther than that at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN: May I draw to the attention of the committee that there has been a considerable discussion on this item, much of which might more properly have come on various other items as we reached them. It occurred to me that the committee might be prepared to allow item 200 to pass now and proceed with the other items.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Before the general item carries, there is one matter I wanted to ask the minister about because I should like to have some information which will aid me in a discussion later. The matter I have in mind is the national film board, item 244 and following, for which there are appropriations amounting to over \$1,000,000. In order to be able to discuss these items with some degree of understanding, I should like to have a number of questions answered at this stage so that I can be contemplating them before we get to the items. Would the minister prepare a statement, since he will not be able to answer these questions offhand, telling us how many films are now in the possession of or under the direction of the national film board? Does the film board lease, lend or otherwise let out films to be used for educational purposes? If so, how many are so let out? To what institutions or agencies are they let out? Under what conditions are films let out? Has the board any lecturers using films of the national film board? How many films have to do with biological subjects, and how many have to do with geological or other scientific subjects? How many have to do with the subject of evolution? How many of these would tend to establish in the minds of the students the conviction that evolution is the true explanation of the origin and development of life on the earth? I am going to send these questions over to the minister so that he can consider them, and I should like him to give the answers as soon as he can because I am deeply interested in the subject of evolution and I want to discuss it when we come to the question