

The Budget—Mr. Martin

fields, leaving exclusive occupancy of those fields to the provinces. That was not the situation in 1945. That is the situation today, and points out in fiscal matters the extent to which the federal government has implemented the proposals which it made in 1945.

Mr. Drew: That was what we urged and what was refused.

Mr. Martin: I now come to the matters for which I am responsible ministerially. My hon. friend—and I think what he said was justifiable debate—said that I perhaps took greater credit for myself and for the government than I should in respect of certain acts of the government in the fields of health and welfare. I am not going to say that perhaps my hon. friend is not sometimes justified in this criticism. But I will tell him and the house that the national health program brought in by the government in 1948, welcomed as it was by every province at that time and again approved unanimously at our meetings last week, is a program which I believe to be of such great significance that perhaps I do sometimes overestimate because of enthusiasm the part that I or the department or the government play in it.

Mr. Fleming: By way of self-advertisement.

Mr. Brooks: By way of political propaganda.

Mr. Martin: But I will say to my hon. friends that in the hospital construction grants we have, according to the premier of the province of Ontario, a gentleman for whom I have the highest regard, spearheaded a program that has resulted in the provision of over 68,000 hospital beds in the last six and a half years—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Fleming: You did not spearhead it. Ontario is away ahead of you.

Mr. Martin: —in co-operation with the provinces and, as my hon. friend has said, with the mightier contribution of the citizens generally in the various communities.

Mr. Drew: And after it had been started by the province of Ontario.

Mr. Martin: I am not going to say that Ontario was not building hospital beds. Of course they were. But I refer my hon. friend to the report made by the minister of health of Ontario a year ago last May. He can verify there whether the statement I have made about our contribution is an overstatement.

In 1945 there was no proposal by the federal government to make grants for hospital construction. In 1945 the federal government made certain proposals in the field of

health. In the field of hospital construction it proposed that it would be prepared to lend the money at a low interest rate. That was the proposal in 1945. Since that time we have gone further in implementing this particular proposal, and instead of making loans we are making outright grants to the provinces and local hospitals. Therefore in that particular no one can say that I am not justified in saying we have more than implemented that part of the 1945 proposals.

But let us look at all the grants and see the extent to which we have carried out unilaterally the things we thought in 1945 should be done in this particular field. The total in dollars and cents of the health grants we offered in 1945 was \$14,200,000. That included a general public health grant and grants for mental health treatment, for tuberculosis treatment, for professional training and the like. Since that time we have not committed ourselves to an annual grant of \$14,200,000; we have committed ourselves to health grants to the provinces in the amount of \$48,300,000. There again we have justified my statement that we have more than implemented our proposal to the provinces in the field of health grants.

In 1945 there was no cancer control grant proposed to the provinces. We are now making available to the provinces \$3½ million in the field of cancer control. In the matter of radiological and laboratory services we are now making available \$6,078,000. No such proposal was offered in 1945. We are now making an annual grant to the provinces of \$1 million in the field of medical rehabilitation. That was not proposed in 1945. We are now making a grant of \$2 million in the field of child and maternal health. That was not proposed in 1945. Not only have we increased the amounts we proposed to the provinces in 1945 but we have actually, as I have just indicated, offered further grants in the amounts I have mentioned.

With regard to the proposals for grants made in 1945, the amount proposed for general public health was \$4 million. We have made and are making annually a grant of \$7 million to the provinces in the field of general public health. In 1945 the tuberculosis grant was placed at \$3 million. It is now \$4,240,000. In 1945, when my hon. friend was at the conference, the proposed mental health grant was \$4 million. The federal government now makes a grant to the provinces on a per capita basis in the amount of \$7,235,000.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand before you able to say—and no one can contradict me in the