

Insurance Fund the statements presently prepared by the Unemployment Insurance Commission are examined and reported upon to the House by the Auditor General and appear in the Public Accounts of Canada.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

6. *Unemployment Assistance*

(pp. 1306-1314)

In its Fourth Report 1963 presented to the House on December 19, 1963, the Committee stated that consideration should be given by Parliament to redrafting the Unemployment Assistance Act so as to state more clearly the objectives and methods of achieving them and to remove ambiguities in the present law which have resulted in varying interpretations. The Committee believed that consideration should also be given to including with Unemployment Assistance other existing programs to assist the needy so as to provide better co-ordination of federal-provincial efforts in this field.

The Committee was pleased to learn from the Deputy Minister of Welfare that a number of the matters pertaining to the administration of the Unemployment Assistance Act have been corrected although the ambiguities contained in the legislation and the overlapping and duplication in the various welfare Acts still give rise to difficulties.

The Deputy Minister discussed the Canada Assistance Plan enacted by Parliament in 1966 which permits the Federal Government to enter into agreements with the provinces to make contributions to the cost of providing assistance and welfare services, pursuant to provincial law, to all persons in need. The Committee believes that the new plan should provide a better overall co-ordination of assistance programs, although recognizing that, until the regulations under the plan are established and agreements entered into with the provinces, it is not possible to fully assess the adequacy of the new comprehensive approach to social assistance in overcoming administrative weaknesses previously criticized. The Committee has asked the Auditor General to follow up this matter and report further to the House thereon in due course.

7. *Application of Canadian Hospital Accounting Manual to federal hospitals*

(pp. 1318)

The Committee noted that accounting in federal hospitals generally was not in accordance with the Canadian Hospital Accounting Manual which provides a basic accounting system for purposes of the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act.

The Deputy Minister of Health informed the Committee that a financial management project team is presently studying this matter and it is expected that their recommendations will be implemented in 1967 or 1968. The Committee has asked the Auditor General to follow up this matter and report further to the House thereon in due course.

8. *Hospital construction grants*

(pp. 1319-1321)

In its Eight Report 1964 presented to the House on December 7, 1964, the Committee stated that it shared the opinion of the Deputy Minister of National Health and the Auditor General that, since it is inherent in the Hospital Construction program that commitments be entered into for future years as well as the current year, the financing of the program be placed on a period of