

be mixed together, to learn to know each other and not to be segregated into these strict groupings. There is also this point to it. At the present time I understand that not all the children in the Jewish day nurseries of Montreal are Jewish. It so happened that there were not enough Jewish children in that area, and at present some other children are there, but as more Jewish children apply for admission to the day nurseries the others who are not Jewish will be refused admission and will not be allowed to go there.

The other point with regard to these day nurseries in the city of Montreal is that they are practically all in the eastern part of the city; and in the whole of Montreal at the present time we are taking care of only about 250 children. There are three day nurseries run by religious orders in that city, but they are not for mothers working in war industries. Last November it was estimated that there were some 12,000 women working in one large war plant in Montreal, and that they had approximately 3,000 small children. Here we have 3,000 small children belonging to mothers working in one plant, yet in the whole city of Montreal we are taking care of only 250 children. The minister says that as the need arises the scheme will be expanded. I would say that the need has arisen, that it has been apparent for many months, but that we have been very lax and very slow in the whole project, which was instituted over a year ago.

I should like to say something about the salaries paid to those in charge of the day nurseries. My information is that the director of a day nursery receives \$108 a month, the first assistant \$85, and the second assistant \$75. In my opinion we need highly trained people to take charge of day nurseries. I was trained as a teacher of small children, and I have a great deal of knowledge with regard to the requirements of kindergarten training. I should say there is no phase of a child's life when knowledge of child psychology is more needed by teachers and trainers than during the first few years, when they are in these pre-school nurseries. The salaries paid at the present time to those in charge of these organizations are not sufficient to attract people of the right type. Particularly is that so because in my opinion this should not be a temporary measure but should be brought gradually within the full scope of our educational system, to be a lasting and proper thing for our children henceforth.

Referring to Montreal again, the buildings are usually churches, and I was told by the minister of a Protestant church, who is on the board in that city, that the churches of Mont-

real are not very anxious to rent their buildings for this purpose. I can quite understand that. Questions such as heating, lighting, janitor service and so on are not easy to arrange, and it is only when the need becomes pressing that the churches become willing to allow their buildings to be used by these small children.

Then there is the further question of the supervision of play for children after school, before their mothers return from work. Here again we have not been successful to any great degree. The way children in the cities are running the streets after school hours is having a most detrimental effect upon their young lives. Teachers have written to tell me about children sleeping at their desks in school because of the fact that they are running the streets at night, with no one at home to open up the house so that they might be cared for and looked after. There is great need for the establishment of supervised play centres for the children of our big cities whose mothers are working.

The Minister of Labour also mentioned the cost of the meals given these children. The charge for the noon meal of school children whose mothers are working is 25 cents for one child and 35 cents for two children. In Great Britain the cost of the noon meal is only 7 pence, of which the government is responsible for the payment of 3 pence. Our price of 35 cents for two children may not be too bad, but the charge of 25 cents for one child in my opinion is far too much to ask any mother to pay. A good, nourishing meal can be provided for much less than that if the thing is properly run and looked after.

I should like to quote another statement from this letter which I have received from a member of the board in the city of Montreal:

What is not yet clear and what needs to be made clear immediately is how the whole cost of this programme is shared as between the dominion government, provincial government and parents of children. The general public balks when they cannot discover what it is going to cost them until a project actually is running. To ordinary working people deductions for meals or for care in a nursery for one or more children is too often just another deduction to the many already made from the pay cheque.

In my opinion the government should definitely take over part of the cost of these meals.

I should like to make it perfectly clear to the minister that I regard absenteeism as one of the worst problems we have to face in industrial production; yet I could never blame a woman for taking time off if she was nervous or worried about a small child. Being a mother myself I understand the anxiety which