

Unemployment Assistance

nursing homes are not hospitals as such. We have perhaps allowed ourselves to be confused by this phrase. Many of us are familiar with the type of nursing home which exists in the old country, which is in fact a small hospital. We ourselves have small institutions which are called nursing homes and are in fact hospitals, but it is not those about which we are speaking; it is the nursing home that is defined in the provincial acts for which there is a proper licensing system.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct a question to the minister. As I think he knows, in the province of Saskatchewan we have what we call hospitals which are provided by the provincial government in the first place. They are occupied by old people but not by aged people who live in old age homes as such; these are people who are in need of hospital care. For example, in my own city we have what we call the Saskatchewan government hospital. This is a hospital; they have trained nurses in attendance, and the patients receive a call every day from a qualified doctor.

I cannot for the life of me see how the definition of such an institution would be any different from that which is laid down in subclause 3 (a),—"persons who are inmates of homes for special care"—because that is why they are not in a place like Melfort where they have an old peoples' home. These are really old peoples' hospitals.

The institution was originally under the care of the province, but these aged people contribute to that institution probably from their old age pension or, if they are not of pensionable age, they pay a certain amount from their available funds. Does subclause 3(a), cover these people?

Mr. Martin: I do not have that particular institution in mind, but I take it from what you said that it would be covered. We are covered by the licensing system of the province. The province defines what is a hospital and what is a nursing home, and if it is a nursing home which is in fact a hospital it will be exempt from the sales tax, for instance. That comes to us on the basis of a certificate from the province. We depend on the regulations of the province, but in the case you mention I would not think there would be much difference.

Mr. Knight: In the case I mentioned these people are in this institution because of the fact they need medical care as opposed to simply being chronic old age cases. I do not know what the technical terms are, but I think those are the correct terms.

Mr. Jones: I wonder would the minister define "charitable organization"? I have in [Mr. Martin.]

mind the fact that at Kelowna the Rotary club is going to build several homes for the aged as they are referred to in this act, and they are going to put up \$15,000 or \$20,000 and borrow the rest from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The homes are more or less held in trust by a body set up by Rotary on a charitable basis with the idea of continuity of occupancy—

Mr. Martin: These are homes for the aged?

Mr. Jones: Yes.

Mr. Martin: They are included.

Mr. Jones: Would you define them as charitable organizations?

Mr. Martin: Yes, definitely.

Mr. Jones: There is no question about it?

Mr. Martin: Definitely not.

Mr. Jones: How is it, then, that the income tax department says they are not; it says they are a business?

Mr. Martin: I do not know—

Mr. Jones: That is what I want to find out. I think you are right; they are a charitable organization. These people are putting up \$20,000 out of the goodness of their hearts on a charitable basis and the income tax department insists they pay tax, but it is a charitable organization.

Mr. Martin: Under the description you have given, they would probably come under this agreement.

Mr. Jones: Well, I am glad to have it on the record, anyway.

Mr. Martin: It covers any home for the aged in which assistance is provided for aged individuals by the provinces.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): Mr. Chairman, there is a question I should like to ask the minister concerning clause 4, subclause 2(a), where it is stated that an agreement may include special cases as unemployment assistance costs. In a case where the patient is in one of these homes to whom is the payment made, to the individual or to the institution? Are there cases where payments are made to the institution and where payments are made to the individual? I can understand that in an asylum or a mental home payments might be made to the institution, but there are other cases such as hospitals where people are paying part of the expense themselves. Surely in that case the payment would be made to the individual rather than to the institution.

Mr. Martin: Our money is paid on the basis of the number of people who are declared