

Mr. HEAPS: There may be something in what my hon. friend has said, but I presume these grants would come under the jurisdiction of this House of Commons.

Mr. LAPOINTE: We have a minister of health.

Mr. HEAPS: We have a federal minister of health, it is quite true, but he does not consider health the important part of the activities of the Department of Pensions and National Health; to-day he is most concerned with the question of pensions. So far as the grants are concerned, I think items could be put in the estimates each year, as items are put in at the present time for other purposes of national welfare and well being. Perhaps the Prime Minister might consider amending this part of the bill so that parliament or the commission would be able to make grants to such provinces as adopt provincial schemes of health insurance.

Mr. HOWDEN: I am afraid I fail to appreciate the significance of part IV of the bill; certainly it seems to have no application to the health of the Canadian people. One would hardly think it was inserted in the bill for the purpose of leaving the impression that the measure embodies national health insurance, though it may be that this is leading up to that objective. What I should like to point out particularly is that the class of people who will be affected by this insurance are those who will be expected to pay their way, to pay their hospital bills and their medical fees. From the wages they earn, or from the insurance they will be paid, it will be impossible for these people to pay their way in the case of illness. The English act provides certain sickness benefits by way of the payment of the fees of medical men who make calls. Since people of this class are so helpless in a time of illness it seemed only reasonable that some provision should be made for them. It may be that the government has in mind a scheme of sickness insurance, but up to the present time we have heard nothing of it.

In the event of our not having any form of sickness insurance and not adopting any scheme of state medicine, or anything of the kind, it will be impossible for the men affected by this measure to pay their way and to meet their obligations during the periods when they will be unemployed. It seems to me that hon. members who have preceded me have stated the fact when they said that part IV of the bill means nothing. As the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) said, a stenographer could do all the

commission is asked to do, namely gather in a few reports and certain information and pass it on to those who may desire it. It would be more reasonable to have a definite policy with regard to the care of the sick, and particularly those who will be affected by this measure.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In the preamble to the bill I notice the following:

And whereas it is essential for the peace, order and good government of Canada to provide for a national employment service and insurance against unemployment, and for other forms of social insurance—

And so on. I should like to know what other forms of social insurance are contemplated. So far we have had nothing but unemployment insurance, and yet the preamble to the bill suggests that there are other forms of insurance. The Prime Minister should tell us what the wording of the preamble means. If this section is to be worth anything we should give some meaning to section 40, subsection (a), subparagraph (ii), "compensation for loss of earnings arising out of ill health, accident or disease." If we had such provision in the bill it would be worth something and would be somewhat in harmony with the suggestions made in the radio speeches.

An hon. MEMBER: Suggestions?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, if you wish to call them suggestions—adumbrations of something to come. But unless this provision is carried out I would feel like moving for the elimination of part IV, because, as other hon. members have said, as it stands it is useless and gives a false impression. It leaves the impression that something is being done in this field, where as a matter of fact, as the Prime Minister has admitted, the government in this measure does not in any way commit itself to the type of insurance now under discussion. That impression ought not to go out in connection with the bill.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: A moment ago the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) referred to what he described as a sort of promise made by the Prime Minister in the radio speeches with respect to what was to be done in matters of national health. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) has just referred to something respecting health in the preamble of this bill which would seem to amount to a promise. I happen to have in my hand the speech from the throne, and I should like to read therefrom what appears there also as a promise.