

proportions of the Hospital Construction Grant have been reduced, provision has been made for a carry-over of the unexpended balance from the first five years making an additional \$13,000,000 available for projects approved prior to April 1 of this year on which actual construction commences before October 1.

When account is taken of re-votes of unused funds, the total monies available for hospital construction during the next five years will probably approximate the amount actually spent during the first five years of the Programme.

The Vital Role Of The Canadian Hospital

The new grants which I have described today constitute a new and notable extension of Canada's National Health Programme, To me it has been a source of deep satisfaction that, through this extension in our programme for better health, the Federal Government is now able to provide additional support to the hospitals and other health services of this country.

Through all its many specialized activities -- in its diagnostic and consultative services, its public health clinics, its rehabilitation units, the modern hospital has wider opportunities than ever before for training, research, care of the sick and for the protection of health. With these increased opportunities come heavier responsibilities to which, I am sure, Canadian hospitals will measure up to as they have done in the past.

Today, more than ever before, the hospital has an essential place in our society, In these days when there are so many destructive forces at work in this world, any institution that seeks to heal rather than to harm, to give health and hope rather than to take life and limb, merits our respect and encouragement. Canada's hospitals are monuments to our belief in the sacredness of human personality and the sanctity of human life.

In the forward sweep of humanity in Canada, our hospitals and all who work within their walls have a proud and honoured place. I bring you the tribute of a grateful government and of a grateful people for your contribution to health progress and for your part in strengthening, by your service, our Canadian way of life.

S/A