

*Unemployment Insurance*

it is known; and in the next place to exercise such care for the health of those insured under this measure as may be necessary to the discharge of the duty of the federal government with respect to a federal scheme, thereby relieving the provinces of their obligation. That may or may not be acceptable to the provinces which impose taxation upon those who may be receiving the benefits under this statute. That is a matter that will have to be settled, and the minister has been endeavouring to arrange a conference for that purpose. But this house will not have risen before there is an indication of just what is meant in regard to the application of these sections. If the provinces do not express a desire to carry it on themselves in their own way, then a grant for the purpose of enabling the commission to give such medical attention as may be necessary to those insured will appear in the estimates.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister says that in the act which I have read there is no reference to health insurance. But there is a reference in the act—I have read several—to all matters and questions relating to health, and health insurance is one. I think, therefore, the Prime Minister will agree that the act is quite broad enough to cover the collection of information with respect to health insurance or any other aspect of health matters.

Mr. LAPOINTE: On the 17th of January last we had the speech from the throne, which said that—

Better provision will be made for the security of the worker during unemployment, in sickness and in old age.

On the very same day, January 17, President Roosevelt sent a message to congress in which he also recommended the following types of legislation looking to economic security.

1. Unemployment compensation.
2. Old age benefits, including compulsory and voluntary annuities.
3. Federal aid to dependent children through grants to states for the support of existing mother's pension systems and for services for the protection and care of homeless, neglected dependent and crippled children.
4. Additional federal aid to state and local public health agencies and the strengthening of the federal public health service. I am not at this time recommending the adoption of so-called health insurance, although groups representing the medical profession are co-operating with the federal government in the further study of the subject and definite progress is being made.

I call attention to the fact that the subjects of the proposals in both messages are

[Mr. Bennett.]

exactly the same. Of course it is a happy coincidence that great minds should meet on the same proposals on the very same day, but they do not deal in the same way with the proposals suggested. First, on the question of unemployment insurance, the bill at present before congress is one which will work in co-operation with the states. President Roosevelt, although charged with being dictatorial in his methods, does not go to the extent of making it entirely a federal matter without the cooperation of the states; he works in co-operation with the states. But when it comes to health insurance, although he says he cannot recommend the adoption of so-called health insurance he goes further than my right hon. friend in order to fulfil his pledge. He gives aid to the states in various matters, in the Wagner bill, which is the bill before the Senate of the United States embodying the proposals of President Roosevelt, there are the following amounts as federal aids to the states in matters of health:

	Per year
Mothers' assistance . . . . .	\$25,000,000
Maternal and child health . . . . .	4,000,000
Crippled children . . . . .	3,000,000
Child welfare . . . . .	1,500,000
Public health . . . . .	10,000,000

That is what he is doing by way of subsidy to the various states of the American union. So I say that although by a happy coincidence the same measures presented themselves to the minds of both President Roosevelt and the Prime Minister of Canada, they are not redeeming their pledges in the same way. If it is possible for President Roosevelt, if not to establish a scheme of health insurance at least to give aid to the states in matters of health, the same thing is possible here, and we would not break through the constitution by doing it.

Mr. HEAPS: There is to-day throughout this country a very serious state of things in regard to health. In the large industrial areas thousands upon thousands of men, women and children are unable to obtain medical services. On the other hand, as I know of personal knowledge, quite a considerable number of members of the medical profession are compelled to become recipients of public relief. Such is the case in Winnipeg, and I believe it is the same in other cities. The same condition obtains in agricultural areas. It is almost an impossibility for a farmer to-day to afford medical attention, and the plight of the medical men in the rural areas is almost as bad, I understand, as it is in many large industrial centres. I am glad, however, that the Prime Minister has stated to the committee this evening that the government have