

Supply—Mr. Winkler

municipalities that the cost of taking care of these citizens will be shared in a responsible way by the government.

As I have said, I have had personal experience in this regard. I have quoted a few figures regarding the raising of money. In respect of the second hospital to which I referred, I should like again to quote from figures supplied by the doctor who wrote me on January 17. He states that funds available from the provincial government for the new program amount to 24 per cent, that funds available from the federal government amount to 11 per cent and that those which have to be raised from local sources amount to 65 per cent.

I suggest to you and the Minister of National Health and Welfare that this is a very regrettable state of affairs. The government should examine its stand before introducing any program which will increase taxes and over-burden these services. Indeed, an editorial to be found in the *Toronto Star* of December 13, 1965 under the heading "Hospitals can no longer count on charity" points out certain figures in relation to this fund-raising problem. I quoted some figures in respect of programs that were in existence at the time to which I referred, and you may be assured that the people of that great city find themselves in exactly the same position as the people in smaller municipalities.

I should like to quote the following from the *Toronto Star*;

Fund raisers in Etobicoke found that since June they had raised \$41,000 toward their \$4,750,000 new hospital and that it cost \$42,000 in organizing expenses to get it, a loss of \$1,000.

If there is going to be public reaction to socialization by the Liberal government then it is high time the Minister of National Health and Welfare stood up on his feet in this house to indicate that he is interested in the development of a program which will enable the hospital facilities required to be available prior to the institution of any such program which will spread \$500 million around the country.

In a second editorial which appeared in the *Toronto Star*, again in December of 1965, there is an indication that the federal government, because of certain arrangements in regard to funds, is behind in its capital grants payments to eight hospitals here in the city of Ottawa, as a result of which the boards of

these institutions have had to carry a fantastic weight of debt until such time as the federal government sees fit to catch up on these payments.

The chairman of the Ontario Hospital Services Commission of that day, Mr. Nielson, said:

And I expect the situation will get worse as time goes on. Everybody has to be backed up in chronological order and federal grants may be longer and longer in coming—

The situation will become especially critical in the Toronto area, where a number of major hospital projects are planned—

If this is the situation as we move into a discussion of a medicare program for this country, surely this Liberal government, which has seen fit to abdicate its position with regard to senior citizens and its position as far as production machinery for manufacturers is concerned, should once and for all stand up and announce its position. We are now in the middle of the winter, and there is some advantage gained as a result of a slow down in construction, but as we approach spring those individuals in the municipalities concerned, as well as in the many municipalities in this country, will be looking forward to a policy announcement by the government which will ease their minds and their concern for the people in their areas. At this date the government has not seen fit to make such an announcement.

I wish to turn now to the question of agriculture, and again I am sorry that the minister is not here. I am aware that he has other duties.

• (7:30 p.m.)

I regret very much that because the hon. member who was speaking prior to the last hon. member was in the course of a dissertation on agriculture, the minister saw fit to walk out of the chamber. I know the minister quite well. I had the opportunity of spending some time with him as part of a delegation of the House of Commons at an international conference and I realize his ability to represent Canada in a good and true fashion. On that occasion I think he departed himself very well in the interests of the country and I was proud to be a member of the same delegation. But now with the reins of office, I hope this minister does not change his mind about his status. I hope he does not become another minister of the cabinet who seeks the leadership of his party and uses his political experience to this end, as others are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I refer to one day back in June, 1965, June 23 to be specific, where the