

They reject "tactics used by the former federal minister of health and welfare (Marc Lalonde) in making a unilateral proposal regarding funding arrangements for social services in Canada without consultation with the provinces," conference chairman Helen Hunley said yesterday.

The minister should have known the results of his arbitrary actions because he has now gone to new responsibilities with regard to federal-provincial relationships. I am sure that the confrontation tactics such as I have indicated are not going to help him very well in his new ministerial responsibilities.

Unfortunately, in the question period the other day, the new minister indicated that she is not aware of the problem she is facing. In response to questions she stated the provinces said in a press release that they did not appreciate the way the counterproposal had been made. She said they did not reject the proposal but the way the offer had been made. I have quoted their release to indicate that that is not so. They reject the whole new idea of block funding to replace the proposed cost sharing which had been agreed after long consultation and deliberation.

More important in this regard is the attitude of the voluntary associations which have been anticipating a major breakthrough in social services legislation, particularly for the most needy groups, the handicapped, the chronically ill, and the geriatric population of Canada. Some of the speeches made by the former minister have given them reason to hope for immediate action. I quote:

● (1817)

The handicapped have the right to be as independent as possible, the right to live like everyone in the community, and the services they need to bring this about should be provided.

The minister referred to the "removal of legislative disincentives" and "acceptance of the handicapped within the community". Here is another quotation:

In every area, the message was clear. They "wanted in"—into employment, into community living, into maximum participation in community life, into the planning of systems and services designed to help them. At the same time, they "wanted out"—out of institutions, out of dead-end sheltered workshops, out of welfare, out of being pitied, out of being thrust on to the sidelines with a pension and a shrug.

There has been, I am sure, a strong wave of criticism reaching the minister from voluntary agencies, particularly from the Canadian Paraplegic Association. This is understandable having regard to the failure to live up to promises of immediate action which have been repeated, now, for four years, especially as the legislation is not even reappearing on the order paper at the present time.

It has been suggested that delay has been caused as a result of the change of government in Manitoba. I assured the hon. lady last Wednesday, and I assure her today, that Manitoba is one of the most enthusiastic provinces. We shall be hosts to the International Rehabilitation Congress in 1980 and it is essential we have this legislation, much in its original state, if that Congress is to be a success.

I come back, finally, to my main point: will the minister at the earliest moment bring the provincial ministers together so that we can get on with this urgently-needed legislation?

### *Adjournment Debate*

**Mr. Frank Maine (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the minister dealt with this subject fully on November 23 and I have very little to add to her reply. I would refer hon. members to pages 1160-1167 of *Hansard* for that date. The minister made it abundantly clear that it is the intention of the federal government to consult with the provinces once it has been ascertained that there is general agreement on the principle of block financing of the social services. I believe it is the intention of the minister to communicate officially with her provincial colleagues on this important subject within the next two weeks.

#### ENERGY—NEWFOUNDLAND'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS REGULATION—POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT ON QUESTION TO BE PUT TO SUPREME COURT

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise in connection with an unsatisfactory reply I received to a question I directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) on November 21. As is usually the case he showed he did not know what the subject was about. He was not briefed. In short, the reply was most unsatisfactory.

There was a dispute between Newfoundland and the Government of Canada as to the ownership of the oil, gas and minerals that lie under the sea on the continental shelf off Newfoundland and Labrador. Newfoundland will not surrender its claims to the ownership of these resources to the Government of Canada.

The Government of Canada is basing its position on a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in a British Columbia case. But the Newfoundland case is entirely different. Mr. Speaker, every member will be getting a copy of this document, "Heritage of the Sea," and every member of every legislative assembly in Canada will also be getting a copy of the document. And every branch of the media will be getting copies of this document which sets out Newfoundland's case and the importance of that case.

Since 1967, 54 wells have been drilled off the coast, eight of them in the east Newfoundland basin, and 12 off Labrador. Of the 12 off Labrador, three have resulted in significant gas discoveries, so we know there is tremendous potential there.

The position of Newfoundland is not similar to that of British Columbia. We came into Confederation in 1949. Minerals rights in each province were determined by the rights each held before coming into Confederation. When Newfoundland entered Confederation our rights to offshore oil and gas were not the same as those of British Columbia in 1871 when it was a colony. The rights of Newfoundland are based on the rights of a twentieth Century self-governing British dominion, and we do not intend to relinquish our claim. But because they are centralists, the Government of Canada and its political supporters claim they own these resources and wish to exercise full control over them, leaving to Newfoundland a few crumbs from the table that they might deign to give.