

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

me a plan that could be developed quite widely in Canada in order to help people enjoy some sort of security with respect to illness, and against those diseases that strike so often and sometimes require long and costly treatment.

I think perhaps I have said enough about national health insurance. We would urge the minister to continue his studies under his national health program and make the findings available as quickly as he can to the House of Commons. Above all he should continue his efforts to logically expand the program he has started, because we think it is a good program. The federal help has certainly been thankfully received by the provinces. My province feels that in the main what the federal government has done has been very much worth while.

**Mr. Blackmore:** Would the hon. member tell the house what Alberta has done in connection with poliomyelitis?

**Mr. Low:** Well, I shall not do so now, because my time is fast running out. Perhaps I might leave that subject to someone else.

Legislation respecting allowances to disabled persons was introduced in the house in 1954 and for some time the provinces have been coming under that scheme. The question in my mind is this. Why was it that about a third of the disabled persons in receipt of allowances under the Alberta disabled persons allowances act were at that time declared ineligible for allowance under the federal-provincial scheme of 1954?

**Mr. Martin:** Could we deal with that when we come to that item?

**Mr. Low:** Yes, I shall be glad to do so.

I just wanted to say that the scheme for disabled persons was a good one. We looked forward to the introduction of allowances for disabled persons, and the scheme in Alberta got under way a couple of years before the federal measure was introduced in the House of Commons in 1954. The result was that Alberta had had some experience before the federal-provincial scheme came into effect. But the fact is that when that scheme was given effect to in Alberta, approximately a third of those who had been receiving benefits under the provincial scheme were declared ineligible. It may be that the federal-provincial scheme is too stringent.

I can say that at the present time in Alberta we have two schemes, because the provincial government did not reject the one it had started. They are going on now with the provincial scheme supplementary to the federal-provincial one under which, as I said, about a third of the Albertans who

were eligible under the provincial scheme have been declared ineligible. I would ask the minister to comment upon that, because if the regulations are too stringent then it seems to me something should be done to loosen them up.

I would like to say a word about the need for intensified research in the field of arthritis. People throughout Canada are conscious of the help being given in other branches of the health service. They realize, however, that arthritis is a killer, and one of the most painful experiences one can have in these days. It seems to me that it might be necessary to put on a greater drive, and to make more of the wherewithal available so that research could be carried on intensively in an effort to find out the causes, make those causes known, and possibly treat them.

In common with others I wish to express my pride in what Canadian manufacturers and scientists have been able to accomplish in the preparation of the vaccine for the treatment of poliomyelitis. The situation in Canada with respect to the Salk vaccine, so far as I have been able to learn, shows that the supply has been good and clean. In no small degree this is due to the great care that has been taken by the health authorities in Canada, as well as the manufacturers and scientists who have been working on it here. This treatment bids fair to rid our country of this dread disease, and we most sincerely hope that will be the result.

Let me add one word about the shortage of nurses, to which reference has already been made. I had a little girl from our family graduate this spring from the school of nursing at the Ottawa Civic hospital. We know what these young people have to go through. It is an intensive and also a wonderful training. But there are times during the course of that training when these young people become greatly discouraged. It is the type of training that requires a good deal of encouragement from parents, teachers and instructors, but when the students have completed the course, they have something.

It does seem to me that this shortage of something like 12,000 nurses in Canada—I believe that was the figure given by the hon. member for Lanark, and if it is not right the minister will correct it—

**Mr. Martin:** It is less than half that.

**Mr. Low:** Well, even if it is less than half, or less than 6,000, that is serious enough. It indicates that something will have to be done to help young people have a better understanding of the career available to them in nursing. I do know that the salaries paid to nurses are not comparable with those paid