

Health Resources Fund Act

reduction due to the fiscal constraints which we think are essential to put the Canadian economy back to full productivity. We will honour all these commitments. For instance, in this particular fiscal year I anticipate some \$3 million worth of claims which will be paid on presentation of invoices and auditing according to the usual rules of the game.

I have here a list giving the geographical distribution of the various projects which were approved. I should like to ask the permission of the House to table it as an appendix to *Hansard* because it might be unpleasant for members of the House to have to listen to the list being read. The list represents a fair distribution of the 238 projects throughout the provinces and territories of our country which benefited from the fund.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it would not be better to have the list appended to today's *Hansard*, because tabling it would not make it available to very many people.

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, I will never learn the jargon of the House, but that is what I meant. Perhaps the House could indicate to me how I am supposed to proceed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is there unanimous agreement to allowing the minister to append the list to today's *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For list referred to above see Appendix "A".*]

[*Translation*]

Miss Bégin: For instance, as concerns my own province, 57 projects representing more than \$100 million have been approved. Quebeckers will certainly recall the opening of the new Cité de la Santé complex in Laval where the federal minister representing Canadian taxpayers was of course not able to speak, but whose presence was I believe noticed by everyone. If we emphasize the fact that we participate in such important hospital initiatives as the very beautiful Cité de la Santé in Laval, I believe it is quite clear that Quebec, since this is the example I have chosen, is one of the provinces which is a net beneficiary of the health resources fund.

Quebec Premier Lévesque, who made the official speech for this inauguration early last fall, laughed when he saw that I was not speaking and he said: "Of course, federal representatives think that they have contributed to the Cité de la Santé in Laval, but all that they have done is to give us back the money from our taxes."

I would have liked very much to take a few minutes to put the record straight because a national fund, like the health resources fund, not only gives back to the people of a given province the money that they have paid in taxes to the federal government, but in all the cases where a province is poorer or disadvantaged, it gives, through redistribution, much more money than the taxpayers of this province had paid originally.

[Miss Bégin.]

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, one of the major objectives of the health resources fund is the training of medical and para-medical personnel.

[*English*]

One of the objectives, other than the straight building of training and research facilities, is, of course, manpower training. I have here a list, which could be of interest to members of the House, of the more than 20 manpower categories which have benefited from the fund. Perhaps these tables also could be made an appendix to today's *Hansard*. I think the list would provide valuable information to all members of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For list referred to above see Appendix "B".*]

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, let me just single out five categories from among the health professions which have benefited from the fund. They are first, dental assistants and dental hygienists. When the fund was first created ten years ago, 58 dental assistants graduated every year throughout Canada; now there are some 917 dental assistants who graduate each year. I think this is a remarkable achievement.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Bégin: In 1966, 82 dental hygienists graduated, and in 1976, some ten years after the establishment of the fund, the number increased to 350.

With regard to physicians—and we know how effective the health resources fund has been—the number of graduates throughout Canada rose from 880 in 1966 to 1,725 ten years later, so the number of physicians in our country has more than doubled. It is the same with physiotherapists whose number rose from 232 to 446 graduates a year.

As to public health inspectors, we all know of the need for more public health inspectors if we want the new perspectives for preventive medicine to come into force in Canada. The public health inspectors who graduated ten years ago numbered 40, and are now 106. So, altogether this fund has done a great job.

Why put an end to a good fund two years before its natural end? The Government of Canada had a difficult decision to make in applying a major, traumatic restraint on its own expenditures. It has meant that in the current fiscal year a cut back of some half a billion dollars was made, and a cutback of \$2 billion is proposed for the coming fiscal year.

● (1552)

In terms of expenditures and consequences on the quality of life in Canada, it is quite difficult for a minister with a major portfolio, such as the one I am responsible for, to select which programs have less priority or can be given second priority when compared to others.

I did not have much difficulty singling out the health resources fund as one which had done a great job. Regretfully