

*Unemployment Assistance*

**Mr. Martin:** Chronic hospitals are covered.

**Mr. Blair:** May I suggest to the minister that the term "nursing homes" requires further definition. These homes are springing up all over the country. I am aware of two of them in my own town. We have nursing homes that take in old people. They take in people who are on a prolonged recovery basis; they take in people who cannot get a room in a hospital but who require prolonged treatment. In the main these nursing homes are licensed by the Ontario department of health. Two of the qualifications are that they must have fire protection; they must have fire escapes, and must have registered nurses on duty at all times. They are commonly called nursing homes. They have a mixed variety of cases at all times. The definition is assuming another name, another position.

**Mr. Martin:** In Ontario the nursing home is defined under appropriate legislation.

**Mr. Hahn:** I have another matter in mind. Probably it should come under subsection 2 of this section, but perhaps not. At this time we do have a high level of employment. If we have a bit of a decline in the employment level what will happen? During July and August of each year a great number of students take up employment. Their parents may be unemployed and not qualified for unemployment insurance. Would these students be considered as eligible for relief assistance under this legislation?

**Mr. Martin:** They would if they were in the normal work group. A group of students who work for a couple of months, of course, are not part of the working force, and this legislation applies to the individual.

**Mr. Trainor:** It seems to me, as the hon. member for Lanark has pointed out, that the term "nursing home" really demands more definite definition, because in most provinces of the country the nursing home is to a degree synonymous with a hospital, perhaps a hospital of a lower grade. Most of the people in a nursing home are ill. Some of them, or a fair proportion of them, care for the chronically ill but not the acutely ill. Nevertheless they are people who require nursing and medical care. Unless this legislation is going to conflict with the proposed hospital legislation I think there should be a complete definition of the term "nursing home".

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, certainly if the draftsmen of this section had tried to be incomprehensible they could not have done a more complete job. I suggest that no one

[Mr. Barnett.]

reading section 4 subsection 2, with subsection 3 (a) could really understand what this means. Subsection 2 says:

Except as provided in subsection (3), an agreement shall, for the purposes of this act, exclude from unemployment assistance costs

(a) payments made to or on behalf of persons who are inmates of any institution or class of institution maintained in whole or in part out of funds provided by Canada, a province, a municipality or a charitable organization.

Then I pass the paragraphs without comment because they do not come into issue. Subsection 3 reads:

An agreement may include as unemployment assistance costs

(a) payments made to or on behalf of persons who are inmates of homes for special care and who would not normally be cared for in general, acute, chronic or convalescent hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoria, mental institutions, institutions for incurables, orphanages or child welfare institutions.

The minister mentioned that there is an example of this in British Columbia. He did not say whether institutions of the kind mentioned in 3(a) are exclusive to British Columbia. Could this subsection not be simplified if it is to cover only certain institutions in British Columbia?

**Mr. Martin:** It is to cover not only British Columbia. I just took that as an example because I was addressing myself to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. It applies to every province.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Possibly the minister could clarify it in this way, because to read 2(a) with 3(a) is to muddle any person who believes in careful language in definitions. Would the minister give an example of the kind of institution which would be operated under 3(a)? He indicated that there was one in British Columbia and possibly in some other province. It does seem that whoever drafted this did not himself clearly understand the meaning of section 8(a) of the draft agreement, now schedule A. The wording is almost the same as in 2(a), except that it says "payment to or on behalf of persons who are inmates of homes for special care".

What persons do receive any assistance because they are in homes for special care? What is the nature of the legislation in existence in any province that allows a person who is not in a general convalescent hospital, or in a sanatorium, a mental institution, an institution for incurables and the like, to qualify? What are the institutions; what is the nature of the institution; what is the qualification for payment to that institution; because the payment to that institution must be made by the province or by the municipality.