

Supply

At the conclusion of the debate on this item we will be debating LIP and youth program. Many of them are very valuable but some are also of a service nature. I endorse the idea of capital works programs and hope they are successful, but I reserve my opinion on whether, had this money been brought forward in a different manner, it would have provided a better vehicle for debate and given members an opportunity to make suggestions to bring about that expansion in the next four to five years that I believe will be necessary.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

Mr. Nielsen: On division.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried on division.
Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: My understanding of the order passed earlier today is that we will now call motions Nos. 6, 7 and 8.

MOTIONS FOR CONCURRENCE IN VOTES 35a, 40a, 45a—
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) moved:

That vote 35a, in the amount of \$850,000 of the Department of National Health and Welfare for income security and social assistance—Operating expenditures in supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

That vote 40a, in the amount of \$2,685,000 of the Department of National Health and Welfare for income security and social assistance—Contributions in supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

That vote 45a, in the amount of \$1,000,000 of the Department of National Health and Welfare for fitness and amateur sport—Operating expenditures in supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in rising to speak in this debate since while I've often been on my feet of late it is not often that I have a chance to orate. I am much concerned with these items, as are my colleagues who know me and my interests. I should like to speak first on the item dealing with fitness and amateur sport, which is a field in which I have shown, if not great prowess, great interest. There is a very large vote under the heading of income security and social assistance program and this is a matter of immense concern to the people of this country, certainly to the members of the House.

I will not reiterate the arguments in connection with whether these items should or should not be in their

[Mr. Ritchie.]

present form. However, if we look very carefully, or even casually, at some of the statutes relating to the whole question of fitness and amateur sport, it will be noted therein that there is a requirement for the filing of reports of various properly constituted bodies, and that there is the stricture laid upon the minister to have these reports laid on the table at a given time. We can doubtless find much room for very serious argument, perhaps to make some very serious allegations, regarding the nonfeasance of duty in relation to these reports submitted by bodies that are charged with very serious responsibilities.

We in this country have become concerned lately about a somewhat dramatic event ahead of us in the field of amateur sport, namely the summer Olympics of 1976. However, it is not that dramatic incident that I think should concern us here but rather the preparation of the Canadian populace, especially the youth, for this kind of event. In this regard, the fitness and amateur sport program should be very seriously thought about as Canada prepares not only to host the Olympics but to take its place there. Another reason I am concerned about this aspect of the vote is the quite shocking news feature story in a magazine which has just hit the streets today. This great national news magazine indicates that there is, in fact, in this country today a very serious drug problem and that indeed it has not at all evaporated no matter how many commissions we have had. It indicates there are serious problems facing the youth of Canada. In so far as a wholesome, properly directed and adequately funded program on fitness and amateur sports can alleviate such things and mitigate their baneful influence, then we should be concerned and we are very properly discussing the matter to which this vote draws our attention.

• (1230)

I should like to come a little more seriously to the matter of physical fitness. Many members know that in a recent, and I believe thorough, analysis and survey of physical fitness this country or ours ranked 21st on the scale of physical fitness of all the countries participating in the Olympics. This should bring home to us the fact that something pretty serious is lacking. Whether the problem is inadequate funds, inadequate facilities, inefficient or insufficient leadership, I do not know. We do vote large funds and we are voting additional funds here. This is what this is all about, yet we ranked 21st.

I see the former minister across the way. He and I might well say to the youth of Canada: Do not do as I do, do as I say, in some of these matters. I suppose if one wanted to personalize, had this country provided better facilities in that part of the country from which I come I might not at this middle age period of 53 have to say: Do as I say rather than do as I do. The majority of the grants which the Department of National Health and Welfare has distributed are under the sports directorate, and perhaps we are more concerned about the word "sports" than about the concept of the word "fitness". Here is where I think we have to take special note and have particular concern.

In 1970-71 \$1,490,000 was given in grants to 59 national sports bodies. A further \$286,927 was granted to 21 other national sports associations, and \$2,089,833 was spent on such projects as Hockey Canada, the Canada Winter Games, Cross Canada sports administration and so on. I