

Supply—Health and Welfare

abled people and its senior citizens, and provide these essential services, has not yet evolved into what I would consider a Christian civilization.

Mr. Otto: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you will indulge me for a minute or two. I have no criticism of the minister; I think she has been doing a fine job, but it would be out character for me to praise her too highly. I was much impressed with the speech made by the hon. member for York-Humber, although frankly I do not entirely agree with him that rates of pay are the solution to the nursing problem, nor would I like to think that mothers and wives who want to spend time on the week ends with their families and who would not go back to the hospital for \$12 may go back for \$20. I should like to say that if anyone in this house wants information about hospital administration, he would do well to spend an hour with the hon. member for York-Humber.

However, since the hon. member for York-Humber is a director of one, he does not want to get tough with hospitals. I should like to say to the minister that since she pays a good portion of the piper's fee, although she may not be able to call the tune I think her department should at least have the right to find out how that tune is being played, especially in so far as hospital administration is concerned. The hon. member for York-Humber mentioned that the hospitals are almost closed on week ends. We know this is true. However, there are other questions the minister might investigate, such as the allocation of beds to doctors; the qualifications that doctors must have in order to be on staff; the fact that a doctor, being on the staff of one hospital, cannot practice in another hospital, in fact cannot even walk in the door, though we presume he is a graduate doctor. These are things that are costing us money. Not only are they costing us money but they contribute to the maladministration of hospitals and the great shortage of beds. In fact, what is the civilian administration of a hospital? I do not even know if the term has any definition. Each hospital seems to be administered by itself. These are the things into which we have a right to inquire.

I should like to ask the minister to consider one other point which perhaps is timely now if the minister is considering the introduction of some sort of medical plan five years hence. She is a member of the legal profession, and I use the word "profession" only loosely because it is a legal business. I

[Mr. Herridge.]

have a feeling that the medical profession is no longer a profession but a medical business. I should like to ask her to concentrate on the problem we are going to face about five years from now when we try to introduce a medical plan, namely the shortage of doctors. Since we will be facing a very united group, I ask the treasury benches now if it would not be advisable for the government to consider training doctors at the government's expense. We should train as many doctors as could qualify by giving them scholarships. Then when we do think of introducing a medical plan there will be no shortage of doctors but rather a superfluity of doctors. Under those circumstances I doubt very much whether the medical profession would consider going on strike, as they have done in other places and at other times. We would be able to call upon a much larger group to staff these hospitals and look after the administration of a medical plan.

Miss LaMarsh: Perhaps before the item carries I might attempt to answer a few of the questions which have been asked, at least in a cursory way. If I might start with the last speaker and his most interesting suggestion that if there is any conflict between the government and the medical profession which the government feels it cannot resolve successfully by winning over the doctors we should then circumvent the profession by establishing our own doctors, I would say to the hon. member that the government has not any intention of doing this. The Hall report has recommended that there be a very substantial increase in the federal government's participation in the provision of facilities to teach doctors, and that a great many more doctors should be produced. To this question the department is giving most sympathetic attention.

My honourable and esteemed friend from Kootenay West has dealt with a number of matters. He requested that I forgive him for having to leave for another appointment, and said he would read my remarks in *Hansard*. He spoke of the program which is being developed, and particularly the conference on retardation that will be held next month. He mentioned the special interest that his constituents have in the construction of new and specialized facilities for retarded. He mentioned also his interest on behalf of a constituent in the inclusion of chiropractic services at the time any medical health plan is instituted. I should like to say that representatives of the chiropractic profession have frequently waited upon me since I have been