

*Unemployment Assistance*

**Mr. Martin:** Yes.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** That is the one I was talking about.

**Mr. Martin:** Those are the exceptions.

**Mrs. Fairclough:** That is precisely the clause I asked the minister to explain.

**Mr. Martin:** That is what I was covering. Section 8 of the agreement, in part provides:

There shall be excluded from the reimbursement claim any person, together with any payment made to or on behalf of such person, who is

- (a) an inmate in any institution maintained in whole or in part out of funds appropriated by
  - (i) the parliament of Canada,
  - (ii) the legislature of the province,
  - (iii) a municipality, or
  - (iv) a charitable organization;

except that there may be included in the reimbursement claim payments made by the province or by a municipality for the upkeep of inmates in homes for special care . . .

Then homes for special care are defined in clause 4 (4) of the bill, which include nursing homes, hostels for indigent transients, homes for the aged, etc.

**Mr. Trainor:** I should like to ask the minister if that does not constitute an incentive for the provinces to make their contributions to individuals rather than to institutions?

**Mr. Martin:** Well, in some cases it may. I do not think it really will, because those institutions will continue to require assistance at the hands of the provinces for their maintenance. If the individuals in the institution need assistance they can be brought, as I have indicated, under the exception provided for in the agreement and in the act, and obtain assistance under this measure.

**Mr. Trainor:** Is it not true, Mr. Chairman, that this assistance will be forthcoming from the federal government to the provinces provided any portion of the assistance given by the province is given to the individual rather than to the institution; it does not have to be all given to the institutions.

**Mr. Martin:** According to the act.

**Mr. Barnett:** I should like to raise one or two questions in regard to subclause 3 of clause 4 of the bill. One of my questions is in connection with homes for special care which, as I understand it, is defined in subclause 4 to cover the term as used in subclause 3. Included in that definition in subclause 4 is the term "nursing homes". Now, I should like to know just what the definition is and what distinction is going to be made as between nursing homes and convalescent hospitals in the various provinces. What is the distinction between a nursing home and

convalescent hospital? Apparently a nursing home can be included but a convalescent hospital is excluded?

**Mr. Martin:** A convalescent hospital is defined in the British Columbia hospitals act. It is something that is specifically included in the hospital coverage. In addition to that, there are places called nursing homes which are really homes for the destitute or indigents, people of that sort; people who normally would be requiring assistance, but not health care. This is not a health care provision. This is a welfare measure to provide assistance for the maintenance of people. People in convalescent homes are in a hospital as defined under the hospital insurance of British Columbia. They are provided for under that measure.

There are places in British Columbia, two that I know of in Vancouver, called nursing homes which are really places where aged people and people who have another kind of infirmity are maintained. They are not really in there for hospitalization purposes, but are in there for the keep that is provided for them by those who run the place, charitable organizations of one sort or another. People in this latter category are included in the act if they receive assistance for themselves from the province.

**Mr. Barnett:** Is it not likely that people who are in the category which the minister described as being in these nursing homes are people who are apt to have to move back and forth between the category of people in nursing homes and those in convalescent hospitals; people who are aged and perhaps somewhat infirm?

One reason I raised this question is that earlier in the discussion of the bill the minister did make reference to the fact that in his opinion this measure was going to go a long way toward closing the remaining gaps in our social security legislation. As I understand it, the proposals for national health insurance are not going to cover convalescent or chronic hospitalization.

**Mr. Martin:** Yes, it will cover chronic cases.

**Mr. Barnett:** It will cover them?

**Mr. Martin:** That is part of the proposal.

**Mr. Barnett:** It is part of the proposal?

**Mr. Martin:** Oh, yes.

**Mr. Barnett:** I may be in error, because it appeared to me there was a very narrow distinction—

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

**Mr. Barnett:** —between nursing homes and chronic hospitals that look after people with chronic illnesses who may be needing care.