

Inquiries of the Ministry

FEDERAL WITHDRAWAL FROM VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Motion No. 223—**Mr. Orlikow**:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of all correspondence between the provincial governments and the federal government in respect to the decision of the federal government to withdraw from the technical vocational training program.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, if there is any doubt about this notice of motion perhaps it had better stand.

Motion stands.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CONTINUATION OF OFFICER TRAINING CORPS IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. I would like to ask whether it is the intention of the government to discontinue the Canadian officers training corps in the universities of Canada, or has this already been done?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions with the universities as to what form our future co-operation with the universities should take. A policy paper has been prepared by the department. There has been some discussion which has not yet been promulgated. As soon as a decision has been approved I will make the announcement in the usual way.

Mr. Churchill: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand by that answer that objection has been raised by some of the universities of Canada to operating the Canadian officers training corps?

Mr. Hellyer: I could not say there has been no objection by individuals, because I would suspect there has been some although I cannot at the moment recall specific cases. But in so far as negotiation with the Association of Canadian Universities is concerned, it has been most harmonious and co-operative and they have been in the picture all the way during consideration of the new policy.

Mr. Churchill: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would it not be advisable to continue to draw officer personnel from students at universities, in view of the tremendous purge of senior officers that has been carried out in the department?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The supplementary question is argumentative.

Mr. Hellyer: There will be continued provision, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and ask whether he can report to the house with regard to the meeting he has just held with the provincial ministers of health, with particular reference to the contention of the minister of health of the province of Ontario that if commercial insurance carriers fit into the category the provinces should be allowed to turn the administration of medicare over to such groups. I want to ask the minister whether he can assure the house that the government intends to adhere to the original definition which he gave, according to which the public administration of medicare would be handled by other than commercial insurance carriers.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the conference of the ministers of health which ended yesterday was very successful, especially in terms of the discussion of the Medical Care Act. It is my view that all the provinces will be participating in a medical care program at the time the federal contributions will be available. I think we have made great progress in this field, and the conference was very heartening and encouraging in that respect.

The role of commercial insurance carriers has been laid down in the Medical Care Act. It is within the jurisdiction of a province under the act to designate a private insurance carrier as an agent to collect premiums and pay benefits, but it will not be possible for such an agency to assess accounts or determine the amount of payments. This has been part of the act and there has been no change in the terms of the bill that was approved by parliament.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am sure all hon. members will share the minister's pleasure at the indication that there is every likelihood that all