

and, in addition, to keep the federal department informed. There is a constant exchange of information, and one of our federal officials confers frequently with the provincial authorities.

In Toronto, as well as in Montreal, an officer, formerly a social welfare worker, devotes all her time to interviewing mothers who seek work and making arrangements for the children to have day care if such is required.

A sample survey was made over a period of some weeks, and it was found that approximately eighty per cent of working mothers made their own arrangements for the care of their children, with the help of relatives, et cetera, and each mother must be approached before the real need is known.

When I was in Great Britain recently I made inquiries as to the system of day nurseries and child care which is in operation there, and the information I received was that it was slow in getting under way for the reason that most mothers prefer the child to be looked after either by the mother-in-law or by friends or by some member of the family. I take it that the same is true of Canada, more so in view of the fact that we have not had such long experience in these matters. I believe that accounts for the result of this study, in which it is indicated that eighty per cent of the mothers prefer to have their children looked after either by relations or by friends. This explains the fact that in many centres where the need would seem to be apparent a survey will show no actual need. Through the employment office, the provincial government or committees of social agencies, inquiries have been made in Kitchener, London, Windsor, Welland, Niagara Falls, Kingston, Ottawa, Collingwood, Guelph, Belleville, Vancouver, Victoria, Trail, Alberni, Fort Erie, Edmonton and several other places, where it is felt the situation may warrant day care centres. In cooperation with the provincial governments, the situation will be met as it arises.

When twenty children are registered or likely to be registered, plans are drawn up by the local committee. These, with the estimate of expenditures, are submitted to the federal government and approved with the least possible delay. We are usually informed of the situation previously and the inspection has already been made.

Serious consideration was given to the clause in the agreement which defines the scope of the project. Child care is normally the responsibility of the province, in cooperation with its local groups. However, it was felt that the federal government should assist by sharing with the provinces the additional

burden caused by war conditions. This would of course relate chiefly to war industries. The interpretation of war industries covers a very wide range; for all A and B priority occupations are considered under the agreement to be war industries. By reason of the general tendency for more mothers to accept employment, owing largely to the need for man-power in other lines of work, the dominion felt that it was only fair to extend our help somewhat beyond industries which are strictly war industries. Therefore, it has been agreed with the provinces that twenty-five per cent of the children cared for in any centre may be the children of working mothers who are not in industries clearly defined as war industries.

Two weeks ago a conference was held with the representatives of the provincial governments concerned, and after a careful examination of the records it was believed that the original decision was satisfactory.

The present situation is as follows:

Eighteen day nurseries are approved.

Fourteen day nurseries are operating—six in Toronto, one in Brantford, one in Oshawa, one in St. Catharines, and five in Montreal. Accommodation, 750 children.

Sixteen school units have been provided—twelve in Toronto, three in Hamilton, and one in Lakeview Beach. Accommodation, 1,000 children.

Waiting approval since yesterday: one day nursery in Toronto; one school unit in Toronto.

Mrs. NIELSEN: There are one or two observations I wish to make on the item now under consideration, but before I do so I would call the attention of the committee to the innovation that has been introduced by the Minister of Labour in bringing a woman from his department to assist him with his estimates in the house. I wish to congratulate the minister upon this, and I congratulate also the woman in question upon having entered, not as a woman member, but in the important position as an adviser to the minister. I only hope that other ministers will follow his example and that we shall see more women in this position in the chamber before long.

Listening to the statement which the minister made when he first spoke, and again the statement he has made to-day, I would say that on the surface what he has said regarding the care of children looks very good, but I have had a considerable amount of correspondence with those who are working both on the boards set up in Ontario and Quebec and with other people interested in this matter, which has