

*Supply—Mr. Winkler*

their own homes. If they then wish to live somewhere else, as they often do, they would be able to sell these homes. This arrangement would, in effect, give them \$20,000 or \$25,000 in addition to the ordinary earnings accumulated in the service. I believe this idea is worth looking into.

Finally we have had committees of one sort or another in this house, we have had a resolution from my colleague from Halifax (Mr. Forrestall) and we have had a debate, mainly in the form of questions, about the area incentive program.

● (7:10 p.m.)

You will undoubtedly hear much from Halifax, Dartmouth, Saint John and Fredericton suggesting that the program be extended to cover those cities, which are the only maritime or Atlantic Canada cities left out at the present time.

I suggest to the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury), if he really wants to make the area incentive program work, that he take an area such as Atlantic Canada, which does need a great deal of economic development, and allow the program to apply to that whole area until it comes within reasonable distance of the next poorer section of the country that he would like to build up and develop. If he adopts that approach, if he applies some formula such as that, then the area incentive program will carry out all of the things he hopes it will carry out, and it will make the people of Atlantic Canada aware that the government does mean business in trying to assist them.

It is enjoyable being back, Mr. Speaker. I hope to do my best to get along with colleagues new and old. My own forecast is that we will be here until the spring of 1969, and that the people of Canada will be proud of this parliament.

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my colleagues for acknowledging my presence in this lonely hour, particularly the Liberal members on our side. Inasmuch as we are in a critical period so far as the government is concerned, it is not very difficult for a member on this side of the house to stand and criticize the government and its supporters, in view of their actions during the course of the last few days—as a matter of fact, ever since the house reconvened.

I shall direct my remarks first to the Department of National Health and Welfare, second, to agriculture, and third, to the

function of this house itself. First of all, when I mention the Department of National Health and Welfare I must, of course, take into account the conference now being held in the nation's capital, dealing with the distribution of funds, the \$500 million that has been referred to on a number of occasions, and I must immediately say I think up until this moment the government has failed to recognize the major requirement in this field, namely the necessary supply of hospital beds.

I recall that in 1958 the minister of national health and welfare of the Conservative government increased the per bed grant from \$1,000 to \$2,000, in other words an increase of 100 per cent. Today I suggest that such consideration is of equal importance. Also at that time the Conservative government saw fit to increase accommodation grants with respect to interns and nurses from \$750 to \$1,500 per bed, something which is of equal importance to the medical profession.

Today these things become much more important when we realize that the government is going further into the field of socializing the country, and more particularly when we think of medicare. But it is amazing when one returns to his constituency and learns that all of these measures do not have the popular support he might think, including I may say the Canada Pension Plan. I have heard from a number of industrial workers that the time is near when they may well turn their pay cheques over to the government and ask the government how much of those pay cheques they themselves can spend.

When we think in these terms, and when the government is considering advancing \$500 million in this field to the provinces, we must be cognizant of the national need. We should not be putting the cart before the horse. We must ask ourselves if we will bring in a further measure of socialization without giving the country the services that are first needed.

In this connection I am thinking of hospital beds. Is the government considering making capital grants to hospitals to take care of this particular need before going on to institute, or try to institute a medicare program? If it is not, as I am informed by a doctor in my constituency who—and this is significant—does not particularly object to the institution of medicare, then we are moving in the wrong direction. We should not institute such a program before supplying the accommodation that is needed, and I say this because of the experience we had when we instituted the