

Dental Health

by the representatives of the parties in the House who I am sure are anxious to find a common ground to ensure the orderly flow of the legislative process in the House. That is why I took the initiative in suggesting a meeting between the representatives of all parties. It is my hope this meeting can take place soon and that it will have some broad and helpful results.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Public Accounts—Mr. Hales.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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AGRICULTURE

TABLING OF GRASSLAND INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2) I propose to lay on the table a copy in both official languages of the government's grassland incentive program.

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HEALTH

STATEMENT ON REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DENTAL AUXILIARIES

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce to the House that the report of the ad hoc committee on dental auxiliaries has now been received.

The ad hoc committee was established in June, 1968, by the previous Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Hon. Allan MacEachen, with the full co-operation of the Canadian Dental Association. Its terms of reference were to study all aspects of dental auxiliaries, with special emphasis on the possible contribution that auxiliaries could make in helping to achieve better dental health for the Canadian public. The chairman of the committee was the Hon. Dalton C. Wells, Chief Justice of the High Court of Ontario who is in the Speaker's gallery today, and I would like to acknowledge his presence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro: The report contains 43 recommendations. The first 21 cover such areas as the qualifications of dental assistants, hygienists and technicians, their train-

[Mr. Speaker.]

ing, education and experience, and a wide range of more essential duties to enable them to contribute more effectively to the dental health care requirement.

The report also recommends that each province pass legislation regulating dental auxiliaries, and that provincial boards be established to administer these acts.

A national dental program for children is also recommended. Such a program would incorporate prevention, education and treatment beginning with younger children and annually encompassing new age groups up to school leaving age.

The committee also calls upon the federal and provincial governments to devise incentives for dentists to develop the team approach to dentistry with support from dental auxiliaries, and for the governments to provide funds for training, research and facilities, and recommends that dental care in its broadest sense be offered to all Canadians incorporating the same principles of quality control and financing as medical care.

The recommendations contained in this report will be studied most closely by my department. Implementation of the report is of considerable consequence to the dental health of all Canadians. Copies of this report are available from my office. Again, may I on behalf of the House indicate our appreciation to the Hon. Dalton Wells and his committee for an excellent report.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I understood that a report was to be tabled today and I thought it would be tabled under the appropriate Standing Order, 41 (2). I am not taking exception to the procedure adopted by the minister, but we will reserve any comment with regard to the value of this report until we have examined it. I simply call to the attention of the Chair that this is the kind of report which should be tabled without comment. It speaks for itself. If, on the other hand, a statement is to be made, then I think that opposition parties should receive a copy of the report beforehand so they can discuss it fairly and intelligently. The minister usually does this, but I point this out because, as I say, in the past there have been abuses under this Standing Order and I think the government should be very careful as to its procedure in this regard.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Peace River pointed out, the Minister of National Health and Welfare usually obliges us with copies of statements he is going to make on motions. Therefore I suppose we should not castigate him too severely today. But I do suggest he return to the normal practice. I have no objection to the report being tabled—the purpose of tabling is to make such documents public—but we think it would be well to advise the opposition parties in advance. Having listened to the brief statement the minister made, I want to underline in particular the recommendation that dental care for Canadians be put on at least the same basis as medical care. I hope that implementation of this recommendation will soon take place.