

health or the national research council should be called upon to spend the money of the taxpayers in further investigation. As far as I am concerned that is sufficient to deal with this matter, and I have placed on record the position of the medical profession in that regard.

I have said a few words in regard to health conditions, and I should like to make one or two observations with reference to social security, which really is to be the objective of this new department. There are many methods by which social security can be obtained for the people of this country. There are avenues which will have to be explored and broadened as the years go by. We have the preventive feature with reference to illness. We must take into consideration whether or not our people are properly housed, whether or not their nutritional requirements are being met sufficiently, and so on. We are a signatory to the Atlantic charter, and if we are to do our part we shall have to give the people of this country freedom from fear and freedom from want. Perhaps the greatest fear the people have is the fear of sickness or of invalidity in their old age, and of their inability to secure a living. These are all avenues which will have to be explored. There is great scope for activity in connection with health, social security and social welfare, open to whoever will be given the duty of guiding this new department. I am sure, with these objectives in mind, together with many others, the condition of the people of this dominion may be very greatly improved in reference to both health and social security.

Mrs. DORISE W. NIELSEN (North Battleford): I think most hon. members are in agreement with the setting up of this department. Personally I welcome it; while not in exactly the form I should have liked, nevertheless it is an advance, and I believe will be generally welcomed by the people of Canada. Naturally the creation of a department such as this opens a very wide range of discussion, but I think there will be other opportunities to discuss the matter of health services, particularly, so that I do not intend to deal with that question this evening.

As I see it, the two main functions of the department as it is now being set up will be these. First, it will provide for intelligent and equitable methods of meeting the modern hazards of our economic life. I believe it definitely implements what was placed before

the country in the Marsh report which, at page 10, quotes the report of the Sirois commission, as follows:

For a large proportion of the population incomes are not sufficient to take care of these contingencies through their own resources. . . . It is impossible to establish a wage which will allow every worker and his family to meet the heavy disabilities of serious illness, prolonged unemployment, accident and premature death. These are budget-shattering contingencies that strike most unevenly.

Second, the department will help to develop greater economic and social stability by providing a more equitable distribution of our national income. That, itself, is a most important thing.

I noticed a short while ago a report in the *Montreal Gazette* of June 3, with respect to a speech made before the Canadian Political Science Association. The report is as follows:

"Social security has so far received less than adequate recognition as a method of creating employment which is probably more effective than public investment in terms of financial cost," J. R. Beattie of the Bank of Canada in Ottawa declared yesterday at one of the afternoon sessions of the 16th annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association at McGill university. "It is true that social security expenditures do not leave bricks and mortar to show in government balance sheets," he said, pointing out that their effect is seen in a higher standard of living and better people, and there is a practical value for every group in the community in the greater economic and social stability which results.

If my memory serves me correctly, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) did say this afternoon that some of the measures which now exist, such as unemployment insurance, will remain under other ministers. I feel that this is rather a pity. Of course, that is possibly the only thing that can be done at the present time, but I believe the ideal objective toward which we should all strive would be that of developing an integrated security and welfare programme to cover all hazards, under one department. I hope that condition will develop as time goes on.

In the United States at the present time a bill, known I believe as the Murray-Wagner bill—proposes just that sort of thing. I recognize that certain conditions exist in Canada which do not exist to the same extent in the United States. Difficulties in connection with dominion-provincial relationships which now exist will be, I hope, not exactly ironed out but at least clarified in the coming dominion-provincial conference. I hope that as a result what I have suggested may be made easier of achievement.

The wide range of discussion which perhaps might be allowed under this bill is not what