

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

list for admission to Woodlands has not decreased but is now almost three times greater, about 875 to 300.

There are 875 retarded children waiting to get into Woodlands in British Columbia, while at the same time the government of that province lends \$100 million to the province of Quebec and tells people generally that they have not got the funds to care for these children.

**Mr. Cowan:** Quebec's needs may be greater.

**Mr. Herridge:** Dr. Endicott continues:

A second solution is the large centralized institution of which Woodlands is an example. This solution suffers from a number of difficulties, the most important of which is to maintain public and parental interest and responsibility toward the dependant population of the institution. A degree of improvement has been accomplished locally in New Westminster but for the Kootenays this is a major difficulty. In addition, being a government institution it is too impersonal, too large and afflicted with high costs. This is the solution we have been attempting to modify or change over the years.

He continues:

A third solution is to find foster homes. This is difficult to start with and lacks continuity to such a degree that servicing by social workers or voluntary personnel becomes well nigh impossible. In addition, rapid changes of home environment are distressing to the dependant individual and contribute to emotional instability which makes the problem of care particularly difficult in the mentally retarded adult.

This is what we have now come to call the Thatcher home solution of problems related to retarded or mentally undeveloped children.

A fourth solution has been tried many times. That is imposition of responsibility, with or without financial reward, onto a sibling, usually in my experience a daughter. I have yet to see it devoid of bitterness no matter how well intentioned the person might be at first. The interference with the personal life, the attitude of the partner in the marriage and the effect on the children in the sibling's family makes this almost inevitable. The eagerness of any person so threatened to find alternatives convinces me that it is not an acceptable solution in general.

Then he goes on to deal with the Kootenay society for handicapped children:

We offer a community based facility governed by a local voluntary organization capable of maintaining community and parental interest and responsibility for the dependant individuals. It would provide a facility for temporary care in case of family crisis such as illness of the mother. The main factor is continuity. This is offered by Woodlands or by siblings but cannot be achieved by any other method except the one our society offers. At some point in history the parental care breaks down, be it late or early. This second home, community based, with parental participation is potentially a reasonably more satisfactory solution. By making parents and community responsible for

operative costs it can be made competitively economical.

He goes on to deal with the necessity for co-operation by governments. I am very taken with the attitude of the officers of this society and their approach to the problem. I think it is along these lines that we are going to find a solution and meet this increasingly recognized need.

Before I conclude I wish to bring to the attention of the minister that during the past year, as usual since the Disabled Persons Act has been in force, I have met a number of persons who have made application for the allowance and been refused. I simply cannot understand why these applications have been refused. I have talked to some local doctors in Trail, Castlegar, Nelson, Nakusp and other areas in my constituency. Whenever one of these cases has been brought to their attention they have said also that they could not understand why the application was refused, because the person in question was completely unemployable. I understand the regulations are such that if they can look after themselves to some extent they are not considered eligible for the allowance.

I have discussed this question with doctors. I have discussed it with persons directly concerned. I have discussed it with the chairman of the disabled allowance board in Vancouver, that is the provincial authority. I have read the regulations, and I can see that the interpretation of the act is the main reason for the failure to grant the allowance when it seems obvious to any lay person that it is necessary. I can see before me now a young man in Castlegar who is completely disabled and who will never be able to earn a living at any ordinary occupation, yet he was rejected. I know of a lady in Nelson who is in similar circumstances and whose application was rejected just two or three months ago.

I do urge that there be some reconsideration of this situation and that if necessary amendments to the Disabled Persons Act should be introduced. I am sure the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre will agree with me that when this act was passed we were all under the impression that the act was going to cover the various types of cases I have been discussing. I am sure other members have had similar experiences. I believe this is a very serious situation. We boast about our production, our wealth, our economic activity and our prosperity. I say this in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that any nation that cannot properly look after its young people, its dis-