

Unemployment Assistance

receive—provided it is operated on a charitable basis—from the old age pensions or old age security which is signed over to them be included in the total which the province includes under section 6 as the amount which was expended in the year for assistance by the province? Could the province include these contributions to the maintenance of that establishment as a part of its welfare assistance?

Mr. Martin: No. This is a program to assist individuals. If the money is paid by the province to the institution as such, then these individuals are provided for in that way. For instance, in my own community we have an organization that is run by one of the churches, and the province does pay some assistance to the individuals in that institution. That assistance to individuals would bring those individuals within the purposes of this act. But if it is a grant to the institution as such, that precludes them.

Mrs. Fairclough: Of course that brings up this point. You may have assistance given to individuals which is in turn signed over to an institution, as is the case in a great many instances. In other words, in order to qualify the province would have to make this contribution to each individual resident of that institution, and they in turn would have to sign those contributions over to the institution in which they resided in order for the province to gain the benefit of assistance from the dominion?

Mr. Martin: The last condition is not necessary. That is a matter for arrangement between the individual and the institution. But if the province paid an assistance grant to the individual, we would share in that.

Mrs. Fairclough: It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that we are splitting hairs here on this particular clause, because under clause 8 of the agreement there is set out in three or four very short paragraphs and in that one very long paragraph a description of the type of contribution by the province which is eligible for inclusion in the over-all total of assistance granted. I am sure we are all familiar with the type of institution which operates on a charitable or semi-charitable basis, which is not sponsored by the province but which gains some assistance by reason of the type of person who is there. Certainly this is true in the case of indigents who are residents in such institutions.

It looks as if it is going to be increasingly important to the province to include in its list of persons who are receiving assistance, both in so far as the number of persons is concerned and also in so far as the total expenditure is concerned, every single person

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

and every single dollar if the province is going to benefit under the scheme. I just wonder whether or not this section 8(a)(iv) in the agreement is a loophole. I do not say it is deliberately so, but I have had so much experience with regulations which are brought into effect under legislation that I wonder if there is not an escape there from a large expenditure of federal funds which would otherwise benefit the province and the municipality.

Mr. Martin: I cannot say any more than I have said. What we are seeking to do is assist the province in respect of assistance which they provide to individuals. In one section of the bill we do include the kind of institutions which would not bring all individuals in that institution within the purpose and coverage of the bill. Then we make, as my hon. friend calls to our attention, in section 9 of the agreement an exception, and that would cover such things as nursing homes, hospitals for indigent transients, homes for the aged, poorhouses, alms houses and hostel dormitory accommodation for the aged provided under the National Housing Act.

Mrs. Fairclough: Excuse me; what clause is the minister quoting from?

Mr. Martin: I was just giving the kind of institution. If my hon. friend will look at clause 4, subclause 4 of the bill, the institutions are cited there. Individuals who receive assistance from the provinces for themselves, and are in these institutions, are covered by this bill. But if the grant paid by the province is to the institution as such, they are not included any more than the people in mental institutions or T.B. sanatoria.

Mrs. Fairclough: That is quite true; but after all the bill in itself is enabling legislation, more or less, and the actual terms are set out in the agreement. Therefore when you consider clause 4 you must, of necessity, turn to section 8 of the agreement which it is proposed to sign with the provinces. It is for that reason I wonder about this, because when it comes to setting out the regulations which are going to govern the administration of this act, and particularly since the agreements are now to be incorporated as a part of this act, then it is very important to tie the two together.

Mr. Martin: If my hon. friend will look at the agreement, section 8 (iv), all the exceptions there she will find conform with clause 4, subclause 4 of the bill.

Mrs. Fairclough: Which one?

Mr. Martin: In the agreement, section 8 (a).

Mrs. Fairclough: You mean section 8 (a) (iv)?