

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

at the root of everything in 99 cases out of 100. Besides, they come to me for financial help. And that is true on a nation-wide basis.

That is why I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare to be kind enough to consider the possibility of increasing old age pensions in order to ensure at least sufficient security to those who worked for years towards our country's progress and development in all fields.

I point out to the minister that it would be normal for those older people to stop worrying about the future and enjoy a measure of security. All their life, they were concerned about the future of their country and of their children, because the children represent the future of the nation. Consequently, it seems to me that it rests with us today to take up the challenge and help them a little, so that they can go through the last years of their life in peace, satisfied that they played their part and confident that the present generation will carry on their effort.

I also ask the minister to consider seriously helping large families through higher family allowances, because the welfare and security that can be extended today to those children will precisely promote the prosperity of this country in economic, social and cultural fields.

Indeed, it rests with us today to help those children who perhaps will be in a position to help us tomorrow.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the minister for the wonderful task she is doing, but at the same time I also want to take a minute to call to her attention a proposal which was submitted to the authorities by the Société des jeux d'hiver de Québec which I understand was set up two years ago.

The president of that organization came to Ottawa and I had the great honour to introduce him to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss LaMarsh) so that he could set out the program that his group wanted to undertake.

Mr. Chairman, hon. members probably remember that the national sport council recommended a grant to that organization to make possible the organization of winter sports in Quebec city in 1966. Perhaps now the year 1966 would be too soon, and there would be reason to postpone this undertaking to 1967, which might coincide with the celebration of the confederation centennial.

I would see in this proposal a real factor of unity, since all our Canadian athletes might get together and co-operate in Quebec city on the occasion of sport competitions which would create great interest and make the

[Mr. Langlois.]

celebration of the centennial richer and more attractive.

Consequently, I call once more the attention of the minister to this fact, and perhaps she might give some details in informing the house on the negotiations in respect to this undertaking. Perhaps the minister would be kind enough to tell us whether those negotiations can be successful and are likely to result in an agreement, for I sincerely wish that this wonderful undertaking will be possible in Quebec city.

[Text]

**Mr. Mather:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a short question of the minister in regard to this item having to do with family allowances. I wonder whether the minister and her departmental officials are aware of the operation in New Zealand of the family benefits plan and, if so, what do they think of it? I understand under that plan family benefits may be capitalized to the extent of £1,000, paid in lump sum to the recipients of the family allowances. This plan was commenced in 1958 and capitalization of the fund has been used to provide assistance in home building for individuals in medium and low income brackets. I understand that since 1958, when this legislation was put into effect, some 50,000 homes have been built in New Zealand through capitalization of family allowances and state housing loans. I received a letter from the minister of finance of New Zealand this month in which he says the plan has worked very well and has enabled many people in those income brackets to build homes, who would not have otherwise been able to do so. This plan has been of great benefit not only to the recipients of these allowances, but to the home building industry generally. Has the department given any consideration to that plan?

Item agreed to.

**The Deputy Chairman:** This completes the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare. The committee will now proceed to the consideration of the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

1. Departmental administration, including the administration of the Explosives Act and Canada's fee for membership in the pan-American institute of geography and history, \$2,191,000.

**Hon. W. M. Benidickson (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity, as I appreciated the