

*The Budget—Mr. Martin*

be his feelings now, in 1945 was not too enthusiastic about the proposals in the field of health and welfare, particularly welfare, put forward by the federal government. Here is what my hon. friend said. I have no doubt that when he speaks on some other occasion he will be able to offer an explanation, but in the absence of that explanation I can only take his words to mean what they clearly imply. Here is what he said:

But since we are now discussing this point may I urge, with the utmost earnestness and the utmost vigour, that no commitments be made, and that no further promises be given to the public such as we have had, even in these past few months—commitments which dazzle new visions in front of the public, and create new appetites which are extremely costly to satisfy; and particularly that no new promises be made lightly by any dominion cabinet minister in regard to those fields which are in fact fields of provincial jurisdiction.

Of course that would cover old age security, old age assistance, blindness allowances, health grants, and so on.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Health, cancer.

**Mr. Martin:** May I finish the quotation? This took place in the plenary discussions of the conference of 1945, when my hon. friend was not honouring this house with attendance here because he was a member of another house. He went on to say:

I refer particularly to the field of social services which, at the instance of the Prime Minister of Canada himself, was declared by the privy council to be the field of jurisdiction of the provincial governments. It may be possible that the hundreds of millions of dollars to which the dominion government has already committed itself in these fields must stand as commitments. But certainly future conferences, as well as this one, would be greatly aided if the advisability of consultation in advance before new commitments are made, either in joint dominion-provincial activities, and particularly in the provincial field, was carefully considered.

I think right now we would proceed very much more quickly to agreement if some of these very general and still undefined proposals which are to be financed by a separate method of financing were to be kept on another basis of discussion until we had settled the basic agreement. I refer to that because of the suggestion made more than once that all these things must be considered as an integrated whole.

That was our very point; they must all be considered as an integrated whole. The Leader of the Opposition concluded in this way:

By all means let us consider every subject which has now been discussed; and as I said yesterday, in considering those other subjects not included in the matters we are now discussing, let us always be sure that the public knows that they are to be financed by an additional income tax and poll tax.

These words clearly imply that at that time my hon. friend did not like the proposals which I now say have to such a great extent already been implemented and placed upon

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the statute books of this country, thanks to the initiative of this government.

**Mr. Fleming:** No.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, as a matter of privilege what has been read is in the record and is not open to the interpretation placed on it by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The words speak for themselves, and they clearly indicate my support of the principle of the proposals and an attempt to reach agreement, which the dominion government made impossible.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Black is white and white is black.

**Mr. Martin:** This is only one of the rare occasions, then, when the Leader of the Opposition and I disagree.

In conclusion I want to say simply this. In 1945, faced with the situation that attended the conclusion of the war, with no knowledge of the increasing burdens that international commitments would impose on the government of Canada, we did make, as the Prime Minister suggested last Friday, certain proposals to the provinces, some of which, in the light of changed conditions, may require another look. But in spite of that, my effort today has been to show that notwithstanding modifications which any responsible man will find it necessary to apply to some proposals, viewed in their entire context, the fact is that with the exception of the development of the physical fitness and the health insurance program, and the timing feature of the public investment grants to the provinces, they have been implemented. Therefore no one, including the hon. member for Eglinton, whose speech I missed yesterday—and I am sure I missed something—and the Leader of the Opposition, will in the future be justified in saying they have not been implemented, because the record is clear.

**Mr. Fleming:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Martin:** My hon. friend may laugh, but there is one thing he cannot laugh at and that is the facts.

**Mr. Fleming:** May I ask the minister a question? When is the minister coming to that portion of the 1945 proposals relating to health insurance, which was repeated in 1953, and was part of the proposals which were buried by the Prime Minister last Friday?

**Mr. Martin:** My hon. friend knows perfectly well that the Prime Minister—sometimes it is an asset and sometimes I think it is a liability—has the quality of not wanting to bury anything. He does not refrain from disclosing everything. So when the hon. member