

HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

The Federal Government also announced that it would cease financial participation in the Hospital Construction Grants Programme. This programme was also begun in 1948 for a five-year period, and successive five-year extensions were given until that ending in 1968.

The provinces once again expressed dismay at federal withdrawal from an area they regarded as one of their prior concerns. They contended that the programme was essential to providing the proper ratios of the various types of hospital bed, which they saw as a key to controlling hospitalization costs.

No consensus was reached on the announcement.

HEALTH RESOURCES

The Minister of National Health and Welfare announced a limitation on expenditures from the Health Resources Fund during 1968-69 of \$37,540,000 and a probable similar limitation in expenditures during foreseeable years. He also suggested a method of distributing the annual amount available.

The provinces referred to assurances given in the past, and expressed strong opposition to the decision to limit annual expenditures from the Fund. They put forward suggestions for improving the method of distributing available moneys and the Minister undertook to review these suggestions and their effect on immediate provincial plans for the construction of health-training facilities.

The provinces urged that the \$175 million unallocated from the Fund be made available on a *per capita* basis. The Minister noted that the allocation of this additional amount would not make more moneys available in the immediate future in the light of the yearly ceilings.

HEALTH OF INDIANS

It was proposed by the federal Minister of Health that the Federal Government cease to reimburse the provinces for any treatment of Indians from reserves at present being extended by a provincial facility, if the charges incurred were any higher than those which would be charged to any other resident of the province. The Minister reaffirmed the intent of the Federal Government to remain in and to improve its direct health services in remote areas of the provinces and in the northern territories.

It was the unanimous contention of the provinces, however, that, while they were willing to extend all their health services to every provincial resident, including Indians on reserves, the Federal Government had a moral obligation to pay the cost of these services.

It was finally agreed that a committee be formed at the deputy ministerial level to formulate recommendations on how both the federal and the provincial governments could contribute to the general improvement of Indian health.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. Munro presented a brief statement emphasizing the seriousness of pollution as an environmental

health problem and the need for urgent and co-operative action at all levels of government. He suggested that both levels of government work together to establish national standards on pollution, under the framework of a National Clean Air Act.

Mr. Munro referred to plans, in consultation with the provinces, to establish a national sampling network and to develop appropriate standards of air quality and emission standards for motor vehicles.

The federal involvement in the problem of air pollution was welcomed by several of the provinces. They also expressed the view that a tax-incentive scheme should be considered.

DRUG ABUSE

The Conference discussed the growing social problem, in Canada, of the rise of drugs and chemical substances for non-medical purposes and agreed on the need for a co-ordinated approach encompassing the medical, legal, sociological, psychological and educational aspects of the problem.

The Ministers emphasized the need for close and continuing co-operation between the federal and provincial levels of Government in the implementation of a programme designed to deal with this problem in a comprehensive manner.

FIRM WINS BRNO TRADE MEDAL

The Electrovert Manufacturing Company Limited of Montreal recently won a gold medal at the Brno International Trade Fair in Czechoslovakia. A total of 396 entries from 21 countries competed for the award, which was created in 1964 for "those exhibitors who display a product representing peak performance of the mechanical and electrical engineering industries".

The gold medal, which was awarded to Electrovert for its wavesoldering unit (WASL), is the first such medal ever awarded to a Canadian company. Electrovert was one of eight Canadian companies exhibiting at the trade fair under the sponsorship of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Several orders were gained by the companies, which was the prime purpose of their participation, and it is expected that these initial orders will lead to substantial new business.

The WASL, which is manufactured at Electrovert's plant at Laprairie, Quebec, is used extensively by aerospace and electronic industries.

Much of the success of the company is owing to export sales, initially gained through trade fairs sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce. Electrovert has exhibited in North and South America, Europe, Africa, Australia and Japan. The Japanese are Electrovert's best customers.

The total number of poultry on farms in Canada, excluding Newfoundland, at June 1, 1968, was estimated at 85.8 million birds, 4.3 percent less than the 89.6 million at June 1, 1967.