

*Canada Assistance Plan*

also encompass efforts to break the cycle of dependency that exists in some families, and enable those receiving assistance to regain their capacities for self-support. We are hopeful that these services will be effective in enabling such persons to make use of the other community resources, such as those being developed through the department of manpower and immigration.

● (9:40 p.m.)

Also included are child welfare services, including child protection, adoption services and supervision of foster home care. In addition to supporting higher levels of service in these areas it is our hope that the plan will be used to develop an integrated approach to the solution of family problems, be they economic or otherwise.

A somewhat different group of services are those such as homemakers and day-care services which can play an important supportive role. I have already referred to the contribution that will be available for home care programs as an alternative to institutional care. Through the use of improved day-care services it is our hope that many mothers will be able to contribute to their own support when it is their wish to do so.

During the debate on the resolution, reference was made to the critical shortage of trained staff to man the welfare services. Federal support for staff training, both on an in-service basis and in schools of social work, has been available through the welfare grants program since 1962. Contributions will also be available for staff training and development under the plan. Also included will be costs of consultation, research and evaluation in recognition of the part these functions play in developing programs to meet changing needs.

Support under the plan will extend to welfare services that are offered by what are referred to as provincially approved agencies. In addition to provincial departments of welfare, they may include municipalities and voluntary organizations that have been given responsibility for providing any of the kinds of service to which I have referred. In this way the provinces can recognize that, along with welfare departments, voluntary agencies can play a significant part in a total community effort. As I mentioned earlier, an important emphasis in the plan is upon extension and improvement of welfare services.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

In line with this, the formula in the legislation provides for contributions for costs in excess of those incurred during 1964-65.

I would now like to turn briefly to the provisions of the bill relating to Indian welfare. Members of the house will be aware of the federal-provincial discussions that have taken place with a view to extending provincial services to Indians on the same basis as to other residents. The objective in part II of the legislation is to secure access to the welfare services being offered to the balance of the population for those Indians to whom they are not now available, or who receive them under a number of ad hoc agreements. The programs that part II contemplates include financial assistance, institutional care, child care and other welfare services. The Indians to whom services may be extended include those who are living on reserves, on crown land or in territory that does not have municipal organization.

As I indicated during my earlier remarks, the plan will provide authority to enter agreements under which the provinces can assume administrative responsibility in this area without incurring burdensome costs. An agreement format tabled on January 19 indicated the approach that we have proposed to the provinces. Under it, the federal government would bear the full costs of providing assistance and welfare services for Indians to the extent that these exceed the per capita costs for the balance of the population in a province. Costs up to this level will be shared on a matching basis. An agreement covering assistance and welfare services has already been entered into with the province of Ontario and we anticipate that other provinces will take the same step.

I would like to emphasize, as has been done on previous occasions, that welfare assistance and services will not be extended to Indians under such an agreement unless the council of a band involved has indicated its consent. On the other hand, provinces will not be expected to extend welfare services to Indians on reserves or in unorganized territory unless they have entered into an agreement under this part. The provinces will, of course, continue as in the past to provide assistance and welfare services to Indians who have established residence in municipalities.

I would like now, Mr. Speaker, to refer to the provisions of the legislation that are concerned with work activity projects. Welfare authorities in several provinces have