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a disability pension, yet are not able to earn a livelihood for themselves and are left in a destitute position.

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: In answer to the question, no consideration has been given to widows' pensions as such. A widow, of course, would be eligible for the same assistance as any other needy person.

Mr. BISHOP: What is the other assistance, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: It is social assistance now, but it will be social welfare under the new legislation.

Mr. McINERNEY (York), after Vote 15 47 under Schedule C had been passed: Mr. Chairman, on that particular item, what does the \$5,000 represent? Are these interest-free loans?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: This is for students at types of institutions which don't come under the usual loan agreements or under the student loan program. The Meat Cutter's School in Montreal would be one example of the type of institution where this grant is payable.

Mr. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, while we are on this item, would the minister give some indication to the house of just what the qualifications are for a loan? This business of the cost of college is getting to be quite expensive, and this is the item for advances to college students, is it not?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: Yes. The applicant is required to provide a statement of his income and expenditures and he must be accepted by one of the approved institutions of learning.

Mr. PATTERSON: Yes, but this is what I am getting at, Mr. Chairman: How many applicants would have any income to speak of?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: I presume there would be some. But perhaps the number of people who obtained loans last year would be of some interest — 2,992.

Mr. PATTERSON: Yes, nearly 3,000. But you haven't answered my question yet, you see. People are getting loans, but can anybody apply? Most college students wouldn't have an income. They might work two or three months in the summer, but normally they

haven't an income. What do you mean by an income?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: The parents' income would be taken into consideration as well.

Mr. PATTERSON: Oh, the parents' income is taken into consideration. It isn't the students' income, then.

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: They both would be considered on what income the student had, of course.

Mr. PATTERSON: Mainly, it's the parents' income, though.

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: Basically, I would think so.

Mr. McINERNEY (St.J.): Mr. Chairman, regarding these loans, what is the total amount that is estimated will be loaned out this fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: For the fiscal year just ended the total amount of loans was \$2,300,000.

Mr. McINERNEY (St.J.): And of the amount that you have loaned out in the past, the estimated recovery is \$175,000, is that it?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: Yes, that amount is under the old Youth Assistance Act — provincial loans.

Mr. PATTERSON: Where do we find the \$2 million?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: In that amount. The money is provided by the banks under a federal guarantee.

Mr. McINERNEY (St.J.): What are the recoveries from? How do they come in here?

Hon. Mr. MacCALLUM: The recovery is under the old Youth Assistance Act, which is provincial legislation, replaced by the federal Canadian student loan plan.

Dept. of Health

Hon. Mr. DUMONT, as the estimates for the Department of Health came up for consideration, spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, I have been a very silent listener for a long time, so much so that this afternoon I could hardly recognize the sound of my own voice when I introduced my legislation. I have been a silent listener since the 3rd of February and during the hectic weeks that followed until prorogation on the 22nd of February.

Following this long, patient silence, I became one of the most

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docile patients you could imagine. And now I return with a grateful heart. I have an urge which I cannot resist, and if I were to resist, I would be remiss in my duty; I would be left with a disturbed conscience; I would not be happy, and while it is my intention to follow the doctor's orders and to be obedient, I feel it is not much of a difficult, demanding or exacting activity to express my gratefulness.

I have enjoyed returning to this house. I am very happy indeed. I am very thankful for the very warm welcome which was given me here a week ago today and I would wish to express my feelings towards all my colleagues in this house, on both sides. While I was a patient, seriously ill, spontaneously there was an outburst of sympathy that was poured on me which brought me courage, the fighting spirit to sustain this siege and to perform through the difficult ordeal that was ahead.

I have indeed discovered and appreciated that public life, far from being referred to as one very ungrateful function, was very different. The amount of kindness, the amount of sympathy that came forth proved to me beyond any doubt that my having entered into political or public life is and will be considered by me as the crowning years of my life.

I would wish, therefore, to express to my Premier, to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and to all their followers, my colleagues, a hearty thank you. I would wish also to extend to my constituents, whom I have the honor of representing with my good friends, Mr. Pat Guerette and Mr. Raymond Doucett, similar gratitude for their understanding and for their kindness and sympathy during the difficult and critical period I had to go through.

I always thought that Restigouche County was the nicest county of the whole province. We have the loveliest river, we are endowed with the beauties of nature and we in no small measure contribute to the beauty of this Picture Province. I am indeed pleased to have had the opportunity in my lifetime to serve such good people.

I would wish also to extend to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and his gracious wife my homage of respect. During last summer, he was kind enough to pay an official visit to our constituency on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the parish of Kedgwick. He was the most congenial man of the day. He was pleased to follow us in all the ceremonies and our people of that area will never forget this official visit. I was sorry while in hospital to learn of his illness and I rejoice in knowing that he is now on the way to recovery. I do extend to His Honour and to his gracious wife the best wishes that they may enjoy continued good health for many years ahead.

As you know, there has been a bit of shifting done in these front benches and in the cabinet. Certain events have happened, and on my return I found a few changes. I wish to welcome and to congratulate the ministers who have been charged with new responsibilities and I therefore extend my congratulations to our new Attorney General, the Hon. Bernard Jean. I extend similar congratulations to our new Minister of Lands and Mines, the Hon. Bill Duffie, and I include also similar congratulations to my good friend — and here I am a bit more personal — Mr. Wendell Meldrum.

This cabinet has strengthened its steadfastness in purpose and it is working harmoniously together. Although I haven't attended many cabinet meetings since my return — it has only been a week — I feel that New Brunswick is going ahead with Louis Robichaud and the team that serves behind him.

I would be remiss if I were not to refer to our good friend, the Hon. John MacCallum, who represents the city of Saint John and who is now heading the Department of Youth and Welfare. I congratulate him heartily. Two persons whom I hold in high esteem are also to be congratulated — the Hon. the Speaker, Mr. Williamson, and the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Guerette.

We have also had new appointments. I congratulate our new Senator, Charlie McElman. He is a personal friend of all the Liberals, and he is a personal friend of mine. He

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has assisted me in so many ways personally that I would be remiss in my duties if I did not mention his name here.

Coming now to my department, it is my pleasant duty to extend thanks to the two acting ministers who acted in my stead while I was away — the Hon. Bill Duffie and the Hon. Wendell Meldrum. On returning, I said, "Well, why should I return when things are advancing so well? I should be the acting minister now and they should take the lead." I know that these two gentlemen have gone much out of their way to take on these added responsibilities filling in for me.

May I also be permitted to pay a sincere tribute to my officials. I have here, sitting alongside of me, almost my better half in the person of Dr. Kelly who is such a valuable deputy minister, and I know of his dedication for the well-being and furtherance of our department on behalf of the citizens of our province.

I also wish at this time to mention another good friend — Arthur Melanson. I have had him in my mind almost constantly the past few days and tonight I am sorry to report to the house that he is very ill in hospital. Dr. Melanson has served this province for over 30 years — he served under every health minister this province ever had. To him I extend my thanks and express my most heartfelt gratitude.

I would refrain from actually dealing with the activities of my department. As you may have noticed, this year the report of the Department of Health has been extended and is more comprehensive. We are striving to have, next year, a report that will be still more complete, more self-containing and more self-comprehensive, including all our institutions in the one book. We feel that this would better serve our members and the general public, when in the one volume they will be able to find all the details of the activities of our many divisions in the Department of Health.

As I said, I will refrain from going into the activities of the department now, but I will be only too pleased, with the assistance of my

two officials here, the Finance Minister, and my better half (Dr. Kelly), to give any explanation you may wish as we consider the items to be voted upon.

Monsieur le Président, en marge des prévisions budgétaires que nous sommes à la veille d'étudier sous votre présidence en comité plénier, il m'est agréable d'élever la voix et d'exprimer ma gratitude à nos collègues de la chambre. J'ai été tellement sensible à la réception chaleureuse, à l'hospitalité cordiale qui m'a été accordée ici mercredi dernier et je ne puis résister à ce besoin de répondre à mes collègues, à mon premier ministre, au chef de l'opposition et à leurs députés, et leur dire un cordial merci.

Lorsque j'étais très malade, presque aux confins de l'éternité, en présence de mon Créateur et de mon Sauveur, j'ai compris que, après tout, la maladie est peut-être une grande grâce qui nous rapproche de nos frères et qui nous rapproche du bon Dieu. A ce moment, alors qu'on est détaché de tout et qu'on est dans un état prêt au suprême sacrifice, la vertu de charité nous anime et on sent jusqu'à quel point nos concitoyens nous sont des amis et que la vie publique est un grand devoir social.

Ils nous faut des hommes dans la vie publique qui veulent bien servir leurs concitoyens, quel que soit le parti, que ce soit à la gauche ou à la droite, que ce soit le gouvernement ou l'opposition. C'est un devoir social — j'ai bien compris cela.

Quel que soit le nombre d'années qu'il me reste à vivre, je considérerai les années que j'ai passées ici dans cette chambre à servir sous les ordres et sous la direction de mon premier ministre comme des années très précieuses. Je suis parfaitement heureux et je recommande à nos jeunes de considérer leur rôle dans la société, de vouloir servir le bien commun, c'est-à-dire, le public, parce que c'est ici qu'il nous faut les meilleurs hommes, afin que nous ayons les meilleures lois et que la province puisse progresser. Il nous faut des hommes remplis de compétence et de dévouement. Il faut que ces gens comprennent leur devoir, et je leur conseille fortement d'accéder à ma prière.

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Je rends hommage à mes électeurs. Il a toujours été pour moi un grand plaisir de les servir. Je rends hommage à tous mes collègues ainsi qu'à tous les nouveaux ministres, et je veux assurer cette assemblée législative encore une fois de mes bons sentiments envers tous — malgré les différences politiques entre les deux partis, nous demeurons des amis.

English Translation

Mr. Chairman, before going into consideration of the estimates of my department, may I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all my colleagues in this Legislature. I was deeply touched by the warm welcome extended to me last Wednesday and I wish to express my most sincere thanks to our Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and all hon. members on both sides of the house.

When I was very ill I realized that, after all, illness is perhaps only a means of bringing us closer to our fellow man and to God. When we feel death is near we become detached from all worldliness and are filled with a spirit of charity towards everyone and it is then that we really understand to what extent people are our friends and that public life is a great social duty.

We need men in the public service who truly wish to serve the people, regardless of party affiliation, be it right or left, government or opposition. This is a social duty, and this is what I came to fully understand when I was ill.

No matter how long I may live, I shall always consider as the most fruitful those years which I spent here in this Legislature serving under the leadership of my Premier. I am perfectly happy and I strongly urge our young people to consider their role in society and to enter public life, because here is where we need the most capable persons in order to progress and to make the best of laws for our province. We need devoted and competent men, men who know how to perform their duty, so I trust my prayer will not go unanswered.

I wish to pay tribute to my electors. It has always been a great pleasure for me to serve them. I

also wish to extend best wishes to all my colleagues and to the new cabinet ministers, and may I once more assure this Legislative Assembly of my good feelings towards all — in spite of our political difference, we remain friends.

My closing words are that while we are about to start the different votes of my department, I wish once more to assure all of my friends and colleagues on both sides of the house that I extend good wishes to them and will retain everlasting good feelings towards them.

Mr. CHALMERS: Mr. Chairman, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to speak on the estimates of the Department of Health. First, I would like to say again how happy we are that the hon. minister is back with us. We certainly all missed him during the time he was absent.

I must say that when you were gone, Mr. Minister, all hell broke loose on your side of the house. I'm sure if you had been here you could have settled all these things, because you are the one to whom we can all go, and I also think you are one of the most popular men amongst us all. I certainly am very glad you have survived your disease, and the onslaught of your confreres, which shows that you must have a really good constitution. I'm sure they are all most happy to see you back and on your feet and able to take part in the proceedings of the Legislature again.

I would also like to say a few words about Dr. Arthur Melanson whom we all know so well and who has given so much of his time and experience to the Department of Health over this long period of years. He is now very ill and I am sure that we, each and every one of us here, all hope he will soon recover.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to take part in this debate and to make known my views on the whole conglomeration of austere and centralized legislation now sought to be enacted by this government, to the detriment of our people, our present public services and particularly the medical services.

This Robichaud program of cen-