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the Moncton Hospital; 27, to amend an Act to consolidate the laws relating to sewerage and water supply, in the City of Saint John, and in portions of the Parishes of Lancaster and Simonds, in the City and County of Saint John; 28, to amend an Act to provide for superannuation and retiring allowances to permanent employees of the City of Campbellton; 29, to declare certain lands conveyed by the Governors of the Wiggins Male Orphan Institution to J. D. Irving, Limited in the City of Saint John to be free of certain trusts; 30, to amend the Fredericton City Charter; 31, to amend an Act respecting certain streets and parks in the City of Fredericton; 32, to amend an Act to dedicate certain lands in the City of Fredericton as a public park; 33, respecting the Town of Saint Andrews; 34, to amend an Act in further amendment of the Charter of the City of Saint John, and 35, to dissolve and terminate and sell the property of Soldiers' Memorial Hall Association of Petitcodiac.

Oral Questions

Mr. BAXTER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Premier: Does the fact that Senator McElman has been a speech writer of yours have anything to do with his attack on the press of New Brunswick?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, that question is completely out of order, and the opinions of Senator McElman are his own, as they have always been.

Mr. BAXTER and Opp. Members: Order, order!

Mr. VanHORNE: Another black eye!

Mr. CHALMERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Highways: Is he planning to pave the road to the hospital site this year?

Hon. Mr. HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to a question — — —

Mr. CHALMERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like an answer from the Minister of Highways to my question regarding the hospital.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: What hospital?

Mr. MOOERS: That is a stupid question.

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I answer questions that are worth answering, but not a question of that sort.

Mr. CHALMERS: Well, we would like to go in and see that site, anyway.

Mr. MOOERS: Obviously, it is not important.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Hon. Mr. HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to a question directed to me last Wednesday by the hon. member from Saint John Centre, Mr. McInerney. He asked whether officials of my department have been in contact with Union Carbide, and the answer is yes.

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY: Mr. Speaker, in reply to a question asked by the hon. member from Saint John Centre concerning investments as mentioned in the Auditor General's report, I wish to advise that the Workmen's Compensation Board is the only agency we are aware of which may be involved in the Auditor General's report.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities owns some securities which are on deposit with the province, the latest of which were purchased in May 1967, prior to the October 1, 1967 proclamation date of the Financial Administration Act.

I shall be writing to the Workmen's Compensation Board and the appropriate officials of the province's other agencies and corporations regarding this matter of purchasing securities.

Reports Tabled

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD tabled the First Annual Report of the New Brunswick Higher Education Commission, together with the financial statements of the commission and the report of the Auditor General thereon for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1968.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD tabled a document entitled "The New Brunswick Economy 1969".

Hon. Mr. DOUCETT tabled the Annual Report of the Department of Public

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Works for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1968.

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Glouc.) tabled the Fifth Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1968.

Throne Speech Debate

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT, closing the debate on the speech from the throne, spoke as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

May I first of all express my high regard for the outstanding manner in which our Lieutenant-Governor is carrying out his exacting duties. To him and his charming wife, I offer my best wishes.

Mr. Speaker, I would congratulate you on the impressive and impartial manner in which you preside over the deliberations of this House. (Translation)

To Premier and Mrs. Robichaud and their family, I extend my very best wishes.

(English)

I would also like to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Their constituents can be proud of their performance in this assembly.

To Mr. Hatfield, I extend my personal warm regards.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset of my remarks, I would like to pay tribute to the outstanding service of the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. C. W. Kelly, who is enjoying a period of vacation before retiring. Dr. Kelly, a native son of Carleton County, received his early training in this province and taught in our public schools. He joined the staff of the Saint John Tuberculosis Hospital, becoming an outstanding physician in the treatment of this disease, with which he had personal experience. He became superintendent of the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium at River Glade, and eventually came to Fredericton in 1955, heading the Health Planning Services.

In the field of health and medicine, Dr. Kelly has an outstanding national reputation. In his services to schools and hospitals, and as the Deputy Minister of Health, he has devoted his entire lifetime to serving the people of this province.

As Minister of the Department of Health and Welfare, I am pleased to have the opportunity in this House to acknowledge his efforts on behalf of the citizens of New Brunswick, and wish him many years of good health in his enjoyment of a well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, on arriving at my desk in the House this afternoon, I found this green carnation. I suppose somebody around the Legislative Building wanted to remind me that Monday is St. Patrick's Day. On behalf, I am sure, of all the members of this House, I want to take this opportunity to wish to every citizen of New Brunswick of Irish descent a very happy and merry St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. WOODROFFE: Do you support Casey or O'Neill, Norbert?

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, to be part of the organization for the day, I am going to wear this green carnation.

Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to point out to the people of New Brunswick how pleased I am that almost daily we find our galleries almost filled to capacity with students, especially high school students. In contrast to the sad and sorry happening of last week, the filling of our galleries by students speaks well for the future of our province.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened with keen interest to all those who have taken part in the throne speech debate. There have been many thoughtful observations made by members on both sides of the House.

To members of the opposition, I would say it is most unfortunate that they fail to view New Brunswick in perspective, that they fail to see the overall picture of achievement and accomplishment in the past nine years, during which time the government of Premier Robichaud has been responsible for the conduct of the public affairs of this province.

New Brunswickers can only look around them to see the economic progress which has been achieved since 1960.

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In Saint John, for example, they could climb to the top of the city's first high-rise office building. From there they would see something of the new face of Saint John: the Harbour Bridge; the multimillion-dollar viaduct approach project of the thoroughway complex; the expanded and new pulp and paper mills in the city, and the dry dock with substantial contracts and a large work force, a contrast indeed from days prior to 1960.

They would see the face of a new city, a city of renewal and confidence. They would see the enormously expanded New Brunswick Power Commission facilities at Courtenay Bay. If they could see a little farther, they would see the Saint John Technical Institute; the new U.N.B.-Saint John buildings at Tucker Park, and the Millidgeville School complex, not to mention the Simonds School. And they certainly would see a harbour doing a record business, notwithstanding the view expressed late last fall by one of the Saint John opposition members who seemed to think a slack season was indeed in store.

They would see a city expanding and moving ahead, moving ahead because the provincial government has helped create a climate of confidence in the future of the province, because it has helped provide initiatives and has worked and cooperated with the city government.

I can't help but think what a stranger would feel like if he should arrive in Saint John, on a very foggy day—and I understand Saint John has fog on rare occurrences—and on the street happened to run into the opposition members from the city and asked them what things are like in the metro area. He would get the standard, nine-year-old tale of doom from some members and a gloomy picture from the others, but what a different situation he would see for himself, away from the opposition members' foggy view, from the top of the new high-rise building at the foot of King.

Mr. LOGAN: You can see where my office is, Norbert.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: You're prosperous. You can afford it now.

Mr. Speaker, I am using Saint John as an example to show how ridiculous the opposition can be in their approaches and comments on conditions in New Brunswick in general.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if one were to take at face value the statements of the opposition, one would believe that the face of New Brunswick today is similar to the moon's surface, a condition brought about by a Liberal government, following eight years of an economic paradise from 1952 to 1960.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to chronicle today, on a county by county basis, the startling increase in industry and employment opportunities which have occurred since 1960, even though record-breaking progress has been achieved. We have done this time after time.

It is not a total success story, but in terms of comparisons with 1960, in looking at the overall picture then and now, New Brunswick has come a very long way indeed.

The attitude of the government of the day from 1952 to 1960 seemed to be to preserve the status quo at all costs.

New Brunswick cried out for advancements in the social and economic areas and the government of that day turned a blind eye and a deaf ear because they thought it would be too dangerous politically.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the government of Premier Robichaud has taken the attitude that it would rather take vigorous action and deal with the modern problems and realities of a modern New Brunswick than sit idly by in a state of inaction and table recommendations of Royal Commission reports, hoping the root causes of problems would somehow vanish.

In New Brunswick this government has never said it would be easy to achieve the progress which we must make to play a larger role in the development of our country.

This government has said time and again that it is prepared to make the hard decisions necessary to move New Brunswick ahead for the benefit of all its people, and this government has consistently said it has confidence in the ability of the people of New Brunswick to meet these challenges in a constantly changing modern world.

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The government of Premier Robichaud has faith in the intelligence of the people of our province.

What a low opinion of the intelligence of the people the editorial writer of the Telegraph-Journal expressed in his editorial of March 8! In essence, he indicated that the Liberal government successfully misled the New Brunswick population in three successive elections.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Brunswick are not stupid, notwithstanding the view of the editorial writer of the Telegraph-Journal on March 8. He accused this government of going "to the people time after time with glowing pie-in-the-sky promises of much, much more for much, much less."

Today, Mr. Speaker, in this House, I challenge that writer to show where, in election after election, this government ever promised "much, much more for much, much less."

The insinuation that the people of New Brunswick would not recognize such a clearly ridiculous situation after three successive elections shows a shockingly limited appreciation of the intelligence of the people of this province.

Now, if the writer really wanted to take a look at some pie-in-the-sky election promises of "much, much more for much, much less," I invite him to examine the preposterous document subscribed to by every single member on the opposition side of the House, including Mr. Hatfield, I presume, and I refer to the biggest pie ever in the biggest sky, the infamous 113-plank platform put out by the Conservative party and subscribed to by every one of its members in this House. That was the pie-in-the-sky rejected by the voters of New Brunswick.

This government has faith in the intelligence of the people of New Brunswick, and we cheerfully accept their verdict.

On the subject of "much, much more for much, much less," I would advise the editorial writer of March 8, if he is the same individual who wrote several other opinions in earlier months, or even years, that he re-read some of his earlier writings.

I recall he supported "much, much more for much, much less" in the case of companies in this province who wished to perpetuate special privileges and their property tax deals with municipalities.

Mr. VanHORNE: Is that "mud" you're saying or "mush"? I can't hear over here.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: If it were you, both "mud" and "mush" would apply.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: He can neither hear nor understand.

Hon. Mr. LeBLANC: You'd better keep your mouth shut, Charlie.

Mr. VanHORNE: It sounds like "mud" and it sure is mud. That's all you can give, you know that. Why don't you resign as you threatened to do?

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, if anybody knows the meaning of "mud" it is the man who is chattering right now.

Hon. Mr. CROCKER: It's not mud he flings.

Mr. LOGAN: What are you saying about your colleagues?

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT continued: One day the writer proposes grandiose schemes, with little regard for the money involved, this aspect being dismissed in an airy fashion, and the next day he is moved to offer shallow observations about this government. This, of course, is his right.

Perhaps he feels that his function is to help make the opposition a credible group in the eyes of the public. That is his right, too. But this formidable task will require something else: the support of the people of New Brunswick, something not even the editorial writer is able to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, the government of Premier Robichaud will continue on in its efforts for all the people of New Brunswick. It will continue to provide forward-looking leadership.

Mr. LOGAN: That remains to be seen.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Premier Robichaud has never hesitated to make known his confidence in the future of one Canada, strong and united. He has never hesitated to make known his confidence in the development potential of our province and region.

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His courageous stand against separatism in this country, long before many others spoke out, is well known.

Mr. Speaker, Louis Robichaud has shown he is a fearless leader in his battles for all the people of New Brunswick, battles he has won, is winning and will continue to win.

Sir, government in New Brunswick must be viewed in its overall perspective, as part of the Atlantic region, as a province of a great country, as part of the North American and world communities. We do not operate in a vacuum or in an isolated arena. Ours today is the world of interdependence.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome the challenges of the future. We are confident that, all working together, with cooperation at every level of government, with cooperation on the part of our communities, our industries, our labour force, all the people of our province, we will succeed in achieving continuing substantial progress.

Mr. Speaker, I need not reaffirm that this government has never promised something for nothing. The electors of New Brunswick know full well that for every service provided by government there is a cost.

Sir, I would like to turn now to some matters affecting the Department of Health and Welfare.

(Translation)

Some of the difficulties facing us in the field of public health and social welfare are particularly due to the relatively short experience we have had in this area.

Historically, health and welfare services were dealt with at the local level. Assessment of needs, planning and implementation of programs were carried out by local authorities. The ideas and concepts on which the public effort was based differed widely from one locality to another, with little regard to what was needed for the region as a whole. Through the comprehensive efforts of the provincial government under the program for equal opportunity the province assumed wide responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, some of the problems not yet solved to the degree that we would like are to a great extent still inherent to this recent transfer of jurisdiction.

The government of Premier Robichaud is totally committed to the social and economic welfare of the people of New Brunswick. The health and welfare of all our people is one of the most basic elements required for a healthy and productive society. The province of New Brunswick is a good place in which to live, it is a province where all the people can say they are proud to be New Brunswickers, they are proud to be Canadians. We live in New Brunswick because we know our potential as a people and as a province. We are firmly convinced that we can develop this potential. We are firmly convinced that we can succeed socially and economically, to share equally with all Canadians in the prosperity of our great country—Canada.

(English)

Mr. Speaker, this government believes in Canada and in the responsible attitude of its government.

Prime Minister Trudeau has described the future efforts of his government in the following terms:

"... our objectives are to ensure that people in all areas and regions of our country have as equal access as possible to the opportunities of Canada's economic development."

This government supports these objectives and we have confidence in the government of Canada's ability to achieve them.

The Hon. Jean Marchand's new Department of Regional Economic Expansion can give Atlantic Canada the thrust it needs to become a truly productive region of our great country.

(Translation)

This government is committed to the fullest development of our total human resources. Our aims and objectives are to provide the basic tools and means with which every citizen can become self-sustaining and productive in a

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truly Canadian context. It is essential that every New Brunswicker be given a full and just opportunity to actually contribute first to his own advancement and then to the progress of our province and our country. This can be done by process of education, more job opportunities and adequate income. It is also achieved by effective improvement of the social condition and the breakdown of the bondage of poverty.

Poor social conditions and impossible financial predicaments at the level of the individual and his family invariably breeds disease, hopelessness and despair.

The government is determined and committed to do its utmost to improve the social and economic opportunities of these people.

The difficulties are great, but our ambition and determination as a people, as a province and as a country are much greater. The government is willing and able to provide the necessary leadership in this area. However, the success and failure of the public effort is contingent on the will and desire of us all as concerned and compassionate members of society. Our government programs are now being reassessed, reviewed and analyzed to determine the extent of the efficiency of our efforts. We are studying and we are implementing more modern and appropriate methods. We are developing and implementing better techniques and we are hiring the best professional people in the country.

For the majority of people, New Brunswick is a good place in which to live, but for some it is still a trying situation.

Mr. Speaker, this government is completely committed and determined to break down the bondage of the subservient existence experienced by some of our people. Our vigor and our determination will know no bounds. I have joined with the Premier in submitting comprehensive proposals concerning this matter to the federal government. We have, on behalf of the people of New Brunswick, forcefully presented our case to the federal government.

(English)

Mr. Speaker, I attended the Conference of Ministers of Welfare in January of this year, and I want to assure this House that I have forcefully and vigorously presented New Brunswick's case to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I also want to report in this House that my representation was an effective one. Further, I want to inform this House that as a member of Premier Robichaud's government and as the Minister of Health and Welfare for New Brunswick I will forcefully put our case again before the federal government, or any one else, whenever the need arises.

To have a strong, vigorous and forceful government to put forth the case of New Brunswick in Ottawa and elsewhere is precisely what the people of New Brunswick decided to support on three separate occasions since 1960.

I may say that our concern about rising welfare costs in this province was shared by ministers from other provinces which are economically more prosperous than our own region.

Mr. Speaker, may I quote from the press communiqué issued by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and agreed to by the ministers attending the conference:

"The provincial ministers referred to the acute problems they are facing in financing adequate assistance programs in view of the continued increasing number of persons needing assistance and the heavy demands on their finances, particularly for education and health services. The ministers from the Atlantic Provinces proposed that the formula for contributions under the Canada Assistance Plan be amended to provide for fiscal need."

Mr. Speaker, prior to this conference, I had pressed the Minister of National Health and Welfare to change the ground rules to permit programs that previously were not cost-shared under the Canada Assistance Plan to be made shareable.

I am pleased to report to the House that the Minister of National Health and Welfare has agreed to adopt this suggested change in policy and to deal with certain institutions on an individual basis. I am also pleased to say that two of our institutions, namely, the Dr. William F. Roberts Hospital School and the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium are in the process of being assessed to qualify for

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federal contributions under the Canada Assistance Plan. We hope to explore other areas with the federal government where we think federal sharing is more than justified. I have had the assurance of the Minister of National Health and Welfare that he will give us sympathetic consideration and assistance wherever possible in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, general concern was expressed across Canada for better integration and more effective delivery of welfare services. As a result of this and also because of the general concern expressed over the financing of the assistance programs, study committees have been set up on a national basis. The Ministers of Welfare across the country hope that the reports of these committees will be of value to each province.

However, Mr. Speaker, the national concern on this question and our own involvement at the national level does not and will not lessen our concern regarding the rising costs that we are facing here. We will evaluate our programs much more intensively.

Mr. Speaker, I want at this point to affirm the principles enunciated under the program for equal opportunity and the benefits that this program has brought to the less fortunate and underprivileged peoples of this province.

With all the members of Premier Robichaud's government I believe most emphatically that everyone, as a member of society, has a right to social security. At the same time, this has to be effected in balance with the resources of our province.

I also want to affirm the government's belief in Article 25 of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and I quote:

"Everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

All provinces, even those from the more wealthy regions, are experiencing some difficulty in coping with the problems of financing an adequate assistance program. This is partly because, as a result of the Canada Assistance Plan, we are starting to uncover the much larger number of persons needing assistance than we had anticipated. We, along with some of the other provinces, are experiencing the usual difficulties in moving from an old-fashioned type of assistance program and one which was indifferently developed in many of our municipalities and counties to a modern approach to welfare services.

I am pleased to say that progress in this area is being accelerated and reviews are under way, with changes contemplated in the regulations governing benefits under the plan, to offer incentives to persons and families who are anxious to better their lot.

Mr. Speaker, reviews have shown that while abuses are not commonplace, they do occur, and steps are being taken to tighten up procedures in this respect.

These intensive reviews also are including reviews of the health benefits under the welfare program. I am very encouraged with the degree of responsibility and support we are receiving from the professional associations concerned. As we work on the increased efficiency of our program, we must, at the same time, ensure that the basic rights of the citizens are preserved. Accordingly, we are establishing an appeals board which will be made up of interested and responsible citizens representing all areas of the province. It is planned that this board will sit at various locations in the province as and when required to hear the appeals of citizens who think they have been dealt with unfairly.

We also intend to pursue much more vigorously the question of the recipient who withholds information from us and by doing so receives assistance under false pretenses. While we think such cases are few in number, we feel that these people need to be dealt with firmly so that the integrity and value of the program does not suffer on account of them.

We hope to augment our staff next year by increasing the number of persons who have professional training in the welfare field. Hopefully, this will allow us

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to move further in providing social services as well as financial assistance to people in need.

Mr. VanHORNE: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Is there any validity then in your statements that welfare payments are in jeopardy of being lessened? I notice you haven't mentioned that in your speech.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Order, order!

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, the member seems to be impatient, as he always is.

Mr. VanHORNE: Take your time, if you're going to mention it.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: I would advise the member to read this speech after the House rises today. It may help him to understand some of the problems.

Mr. VanHORNE: Mr. Speaker, you haven't dealt with them. This is just another runaround—much, much mud.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Much, much mud comes from much, much mud.

Mr. CHALMERS: That is what we're getting from you.

Mr. VanHORNE: We're getting it this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to mud, I don't intend to try to compete with the hon. member from Restigouche.

Mr. VanHORNE: You will still not be honest with yourself.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, I now want to turn to our hospital program, and what I have to say, I think, is of some importance, but to put it in proper context, I would like to remind this House, for instance, of some of the reasons why we are so concerned with increasing health and hospital services costs.

In looking over the accounts of the Department of Health, I was shocked to discover that from 1952 to 1960, a period of eight years under a previous government, the total expenditure for health services in New Brunswick, excluding welfare services, amounted to \$70 million. From 1961 to 1969, another period of eight years, and again excluding welfare services, the present government expended \$353 million.

Mr. CHALMERS: You ought to know better than to try to give us that stuff.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that when I addressed this House last year I referred to a five-year plan of hospital construction. You will recall further, Mr. Speaker, that I told this House the plan would be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

At that time, I announced to the House plans to provide a new and up-to-date hospital facility on the site of the Dr. Georges L. Dumont Hospital at Moncton, and plans for a new hospital at Bathurst, which hospital is now under construction.

I also announced that a site had been acquired for a new regional hospital in Fredericton, and the planning of major expansion of hospital facilities in Saint John.

As part of the five-year plan, I announced major renovations at Edmundston; provision of additional hospital facilities in the Miramichi area, and the replacement of the hospitals at Grand Manan and Sussex.

In this connection I stated that the plan would be updated annually, and that in this updating procedure the individual areas of the province would be given consideration from time to time.

Let us review some of the important changes that have since taken place in Canada, changes which have substantially affected the position of all the regions of Canada.

At the Conference of the Ministers of Health held in November of last year—and you will recall this was held back to back with the Conference of the Ministers of Finance—the federal government publicly expressed its growing concern over rapidly increasing costs in the field of hospital care. This concern was echoed by the Ministers of Health from coast to coast.

As a result of this national concern, a special task force was appointed to look into and recommend ways and means by which the cost of operating health services could be maintained at a reasonable level. For this reason, if no other, it

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is incumbent upon us to take cognizance of this action and to learn from the studies presently under way and shortly to be completed.

At the joint meeting of Ministers of Health and Finance, which was convened at the time of our conference, the national government went out of its way to urge the provincial authorities to take whatever steps they could to achieve a more effective use of the health dollar.

The concerns expressed at that conference have been followed by definitive action on the part of provincial governments in regions which are much more prosperous than our own.

I quote the Globe and Mail of January 16, 1969:

"In the second week of January the Ontario government was to call for tenders for three institutions. The Ontario Hospital Services Commission was told by the government not to proceed.

"Other hospitals and institutions planning expansion for patients, research and teaching have been told to shelve their projects.

"Only three projects already under way will be continued, and one on a limited scale."

Perhaps the best way to emphasize my concern, Mr. Speaker, is to review the facts that have caused us to take the measures I am going to outline to the House.

In the first full year of the operation of the New Brunswick Hospital Plan, which was introduced in July of 1959, expenditures amounted to \$17.7 million. At that time, Mr. Speaker, this represented close to \$3 million over and above the revenues earmarked to cover the cost of the plan. This 20 per cent underestimation of the cost of the plan in 1959 exemplifies how difficult it is to foresee the cost of such a complex public service.

During that year, large escalations took place in hospital services, but since then they have been of a lesser order. Nevertheless, their continued progression, at a level which gives no evidence of abatement, is ample reason for every provincial authority to be concerned.

Hospital costs in this province have increased by 121 per cent since 1960, when they were over \$19 million. In this fiscal year they will exceed \$43 million.

Mr. Speaker, let me put it in another way. In New Brunswick, in 1960, the per capita cost of hospital services was \$27.44. Eight years later this cost had risen by 140 per cent, to \$66.06.

I repeat, Mr. Speaker: In New Brunswick, in 1960, the per capita cost of hospital services was \$27.44. Eight years later this cost had risen by 140 per cent, to \$66.06.

Per-patient-day costs have risen from \$17.08—the average per diem cost in hospitals in New Brunswick in 1961—to \$31.13 in 1968.

During this time the volume of hospital care has also substantially increased. The total number of beds has been increased by more than 1,137, which represents a 36 per cent increase in our active treatment beds since 1960.

The number of staff members in hospitals has increased by nearly 50 per cent and the total wage bills have doubled.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that recent studies done for the United States government suggest that the trend in hospital costs will continue to increase by 10 per cent each year. Therefore, we must develop more modern methods and improve the patterns of delivery of service so that our facilities and manpower resources are used more effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I have recommended to my colleagues in the government a comprehensive and detailed study of all aspects of our total efforts in health and social services. It is essential that emphasis be placed on quality as much as on quantity. It is essential that our policies for the future emphasize greater efficiency and better quality in all health services based on our needs and within our capacity to pay.

For this reason, I have recommended the postponement of our hospital construction program for one year.

Mr. MOOERS: That's progress, eh?

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Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: Mr. Speaker, let me elaborate on the concentrated review that is to be made of our present facilities and services and the assessment of future needs.

Mr. CHALMERS: Just another survey to waste time.

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: It should have been done in 1959.

Mr. CHALMERS: Where were you in 1960?

Hon. Mr. THERIAULT: The study will:

1) assess the physical condition of existing hospital plants and development programs;

2) review the availability of medical and other health services manpower, present and future;

3) review the present structure of hospital and health services administration;

4) assess the internal organization and staff establishments within hospitals, and

5) analyze hospital and physician referral patterns, including referrals to hospitals outside the province.

Most important, Mr. Speaker, all this has to be related to our economic resources.

This study will indicate areas which require much more concentrated attention. For example, we have to ask ourselves the extent to which paramedical workers can assist doctors in relieving them of non-medical duties. This is essential if the work of the medical profession is to continue in the most efficient way.

We have to ask ourselves whether we are using our hospital beds as effectively as we might. When we review the experience of some of the group practice plans in the United States of America, we see these plans can get by with a rate of hospital utilization for their population that is remarkably low compared to our utilization rate in Canada and in New Brunswick.

For example, the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan provides comprehensive care to 1.5 million subscribers. This plan has a very low rate of utilization of hospital beds. This very low utilization rate was further reduced by 12 per cent from 1960 to 1965, while in the United States as a whole, during this same period, hospital utilization increased by nine per cent.

Mr. Speaker, surely our people are no more ill in New Brunswick than the persons who are served by these group practice plans. Surely this suggests we could be making much better use of our hospital beds.

In our review of hospital services we have to consider the extent to which non-medical services, such as laundry and linen services and purchasing of hospital supplies, might be developed on a regional basis in order to take advantage of the economy of larger-scale production and processing.

This study will produce recommendations outlining our resource requirements. It will develop a timetable for implementation and set out cost projections in relationship to the practicability of such plans.

Mr. Speaker, a study of this magnitude and depth will be impossible to complete without the full cooperation of the hospitals, the medical profession, the nursing profession and the other professional groups involved in the delivery of health care services. I am confident we will receive this cooperation.

All of this has to be done in the context of the particular requirements of our population in New Brunswick, its rural-urban mix and its changing pattern. The needs of the two language groups have to be properly provided for.

In certain areas services will be extended and, as a result, in other areas they may be redundant. The changing patterns of population distribution will obviously require changes in the distribution of health care resources.

Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House that I have met with the boards of the hospitals most involved, namely, the Saint John General, the two Moncton hospitals, the Newcastle hospital, the hospital at Sussex and the Victoria Public Hospital in Fredericton. I was impressed, Sir, remarkably impressed by the responsible attitude taken by the boards of each and every one of these hospitals. They have told me, almost unanimously, that this study is something

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that should have been done 15 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, this study has to be related to the study conducted in mental health services and the one on nursing homes.

I now turn, Mr. Speaker, to our mental health services.

I am sure that by now all members of the House will have read the Report of the Study Committee on Mental Health Services.

In the first place, I would like to thank Mr. Cushing, the chairman of the committee, each committee member and the committee's secretary for their most valuable contribution. The committee has earnestly considered all aspects of this major public health problem which has to be given top priority in the planning of all our health and welfare programs.

The report of this committee pointed out the need for my department to start work on a detailed organizational and administrative study of our present system. In line with the committee's recommendations, we are doing this. We now have an opportunity to develop a modern mental health program comparable to the best on the North American continent.

Mr. Speaker, I would pause to add that, after having given much study over the past year to the question of mental illness, I have no doubt at all that we have to work towards the development of a community-based psychiatric program. The assets of such a program in diminishing morbidity rates from mental illness are of paramount importance. We must quickly do away with the traditional practices which invariably lead to careless disregard for human dignity. The lengthy separation of persons confined to mental hospitals for many months and years and separated from their families result in unnecessary suffering.

In line with the committee's recommendations, I am pleased to say that a new mental health bill will be introduced at this session. This bill will foster the development and maintenance throughout the province of an integrated system of comprehensive community mental health services. Again along the lines of the committee's report, I was pleased to announce only a few weeks ago the appointment of Mr. Rheal LeBlanc as administrator of the Provincial Hospital in Campbellton.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased that because of the decision of this government to place the modernization of the mental health service as a top priority for the coming year, a native son of New Brunswick was persuaded to return to our province to assist in this endeavor.

I am confident that in the month of April I will be able to make a similar announcement concerning the appointment of an administrator to the Provincial Hospital in Saint John.

I would like to stress at this time our most serious concern over our mental retardation program. In our efforts we must make certain that the mentally retarded, both children and adults, be given a real opportunity to achieve maximum self-fulfilment within their potential capacity.

Mr. Speaker, in this connection I am very pleased to report to the House that Dr. Fred Grunberg, Deputy Commissioner of Retardation for the state of New York, was engaged as a consultant by my department. He was asked to assess present standards of psychiatric care in the province and make recommendations to substantially upgrade standards of services. In part of his report to me he stated that the Dr. William F. Roberts Hospital School clearly stood out as one of the finest programs in North America for the habilitation and care of mentally retarded children.

However, Mr. Speaker, these services must be extended to all retarded children and adults in the province. This becomes all the more imperative since the graduates from the Dr. William F. Roberts School, in some instances, will require continuing supervision and training in their adult years.

Accordingly, it gives me great pleasure to announce in this House today the appointment of Dr. John Stanley as associate director of our health services in mental retardation. He is presently medical superintendent of the Dr. William F. Roberts Hospital Training School.

Mr. Speaker, with Dr. Stanley's leadership I have confidence that our efforts

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for the mentally retarded will be oriented along sound and practical lines.

I am pleased to say that in addition to the appointments I have referred to, we are making considerable progress in attracting to New Brunswick other professional personnel. We are also in the process of reviewing salaries of professional staff to make these salaries competitive in the areas where presently they are not.

The success of our efforts depends in great part upon the quality of all our professional staff.

Mr. Speaker, changes of any nature are difficult. They are particularly difficult to effect in a service which has known little change for many years. It is most encouraging to see the response of staff of the Mental Health Services Division to the changes that have been made, and the changes that are going to be made.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to record in this House my gratitude and thanks to these very devoted workers in the mental health and mental retardation fields. The cooperation they have given me in the changes that are being made within the service at this time is greatly appreciated by the government.

I wish also to record the encouragement and constructive suggestions we have received from the various professional associations in the changes that are taking place.

I am sure that no member of this House needs to be convinced that our mental health and mental retardation programs have to be listed as our top priority. Our efforts require additional professional staff and material resources in order to bring about maximum benefits to the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to answer a question raised by one of the members from Saint John concerning fire safety in the Provincial Hospital in Saint John. I wish to make the following statement, and I make it as a result of discussing the fire safety status of the institution with the provincial Fire Marshal this morning:

In spite of the fact that portions of the Provincial Hospital are old, the fire safety precautions in the hospital are adequate. The hospital is equipped with a most modern alarm system and the old part of the hospital is equipped with a sprinkler system. At the present time, this institution, with the special attention it has received, has one of the most elaborate and efficient emergency evacuation and fire safety programs in this province or in any similar institution existing anywhere.

Particular praise must go to the hospital staff who have been responsible, under the Fire Marshal's direction, for organizing the fire safety program.

Mr. Speaker, I want, in the most emphatic terms, to allay any fears concerning the safety of the patients in the Provincial Hospital in Saint John, which doubts may have been raised by the question posed by the member from that city.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps one of the most important areas where health and welfare services require the greatest degree of integration is in the provision of services and facilities for the chronically ill and the aged.

Until recently, the responsibility for the provision of nursing home accommodation was fragmented. Quite obviously, the provincial government is becoming more and more involved in the payment, not only for a portion of the capital cost, but for a larger proportion of the operating costs of these facilities. Consequently, because of this and of the impact in the deficiencies of such a program included in a hospital program, we have to know what our needs are in this area. We must plan effectively to integrate this program with the developments going on in our mental health service and in the plans being developed in our hospital service as well as the services and activities provided by the many voluntary associations and agencies in this province.

Consequently, and as part of an overall review of provincial health and welfare services, the government decided that it is in the best interest of the

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province not to license any additional auxiliary homes. Present facilities and services and the future requirements for these services for the aged and chronically ill are being assessed in detail.

The need for this study was made evident not only by the growing provincial involvement in such programs, but because of the apparent inequity in the distribution of nursing home beds within the province itself. It was also apparent that the standard of care provided in these nursing homes was variable. There was every indication that the number of beds providing basic nursing care in these facilities, as opposed to personal care, was less than appeared to be required, based on need.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that this study is progressing satisfactorily and I hope to receive the final report by the end of June.

The cooperation of the auxiliary home operators, hospital officials, private health agencies and the professional associations interested in the development of nursing home services is greatly facilitating the success of this study.

Mr. Speaker, I will sum up by saying that after a few months as head of the Department of Health I felt it was time that we in the department pause, take a look, make plans and projections for the next five or ten years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Address Adopted

Mr. SPEAKER, having read the address, put the question, the debate being ended, and it was agreed to without amendment.

Address Engrossed

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY, that the address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be engrossed, signed by Mr. Speaker, and presented to His Honour by a committee of the House.

Appointments

Mr. SPEAKER appointed Mr. Flower, Mr. Haché and Hon. Mr. Robichaud to compose such a committee.

Motion of Supply

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD, that the House will, on Tuesday next, March 18, 1969, resolve itself into a committee to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD moved that the House adjourn.

The House adjourned at 4.10 p.m.

Daily Sitting No. 9

Assembly Chamber,
Tuesday, March 18, 1969.

The House met at 3 p.m.

Second Reading

The following bills were read the second time and referred to their respective committees:

Nos. 26 (Moncton Hospital consolidating Acts amdt.); 27 (Saint John City, Lancaster and Simonds sewerage and water supply amdt.); 28 (Campbellton City employees retiring allowances amdt.); 29 (Wiggins Male Orphan Institution land conveyance to J. D. Irving); 30 (Fredericton City Charter amdt.); 31 (Fredericton streets and parks amdt.); 32 (Fredericton lands as public park amdt.); 33 (Town of Saint Andrews); 34 (Saint John City Charter amdt.), and 35 (Petitcodiac Soldiers' Memorial Hall Assoc. sale of property).

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Motion Withdrawn

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the purpose of Motion No. 2 has been accomplished, I would ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER put the question and the motion was withdrawn.

His Honour's Message

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. SPEAKER, with all hon. members standing, read the said message as follows:

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits the estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1970 which include the estimates of the sums required for the services of the province, not otherwise provided for, for the year ending March 31, 1970, and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, recommends these estimates to the House.

Motions of Supply

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD, that the message, with the estimates accompanying the same, be referred to the committee of supply.

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD, that the portion of the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which refers to the public accounts, estimates and expenditures be referred to the committee of supply.

Budget Speech

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY, presenting the budget, spoke as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

Once again it is my honor and privilege to rise in this assembly to present the motion of supply. This marks the tenth time on which I have been so honored, and on each successive occasion I have become increasingly aware of the growing complexity of budget preparation and fiscal planning. It is a phenomenon which I know faces each of my provincial counterparts and the federal Minister of Finance.

Preparing a budget is a strenuous exercise. It demands from the Minister of Finance and each member of the government a critical examination of the various programs and activities for which they are responsible, and an appraisal of progress made during the year. As the task increases in magnitude and complexity each succeeding year, the choices open to the government—within the bounds of its financial resources—become more difficult to make. Yet the great benefit of this exercise is the administrative discipline which it imposes on the cabinet, the individual ministers and their departments. It is a time for review, of looking ahead, and planning.

The final result of this key exercise in the government process is the budget which, when approved, provides the guidelines and framework for financial and administrative operation and control in the coming year, and by its very nature also provides a future basis for measuring the effectiveness of the year's activities.

REVIEW OF FISCAL 1968-69

Economic Situation:

Last week, Mr. Speaker, as is customary before presentation of the budget, the annual report on the New Brunswick economy was tabled in the House. Since it sets out the details of developments in the provincial economy during 1968, my remarks today on this subject will be brief, but there are some points I would like to stress.

Throughout North America in 1968 there was a slowing down in the growth rate from previous years. This, of course, affected the performance of the New Brunswick economy. As had been expected, 1968 turned out to be a year of moderate increases for our province. It was a year of "stock-taking" for most sectors of the economy, characterized primarily by average gains. The best overall performance was in the primary sector—wood products, mining and