

Maladministration Of Health Services Charged by Nesbitt

**"Remove Present Minister," Suggests Tory,
Charging Patronage, Curtailed
Health Services**

IGNORANCE, autocratic methods, inefficient administration of hospitals and services, and undisguised patronage to the detriment of its own efforts were charged to the Ontario Department of Health in the Legislature yesterday by A. Russell Nesbitt, Conservative member for Bracondale.

"A Man Named O'Connor."

Resuming the debate on the Speech from the Throne, the Toronto member embarked on a comprehensive review of the administration of the Hon. Dr. J. A. Faulkner's department since the Belleville member became Minister of Health.

A caustic reference to recent Liberal appointments was made by Mr. Nesbitt when he noted the choice of "a man named O'Connor" for a minor office, and commented that, when the present Government died, the O'Connor family would undoubtedly function as pallbearers.

The Toronto member got one thrust home when a Government Bencher asked him if he preferred the Henry Government policies.

"I'm making no excuses for past Governments," Mr. Nesbitt retorted. "We're sitting over here for mistakes we made. I'm endeavoring to show you that you may be over here shortly for the mistakes you make.

"The present Administration," he charged, "has revealed only a colossal ignorance on the question of public health. I would like to ask what interest the present Government is displaying in this question. What organization for the control of communicable disease in unorganized territory has been set up? Under Dr. Godfrey and Dr. Robb the Province had at least the nucleus of such an organization."

Sees Curtailed Service.

No longer, he said, could a little community get the former \$400 grant toward a public health nurse. Free insulin service had been curtailed. The Provincial dental health administration had been torn down, although the present Minister had told a public health meeting not long ago that Ontario was far behind other Provinces and States in public health

service, and had admitted, according to Mr. Nesbitt, that "something ought to be done about it." "My best answer to this," said the member for Bracondale, "would be to remove the present Minister and appoint somebody who has a progressive attitude along these lines."

Resuming his recital of what he described as examples of patronage and maladministration, Mr. Nesbitt mentioned \$300 per month being paid a firm of chartered accountants for auditing public trustee accounts; the replacement of Clerk R. R. Burrows at the Orillia Hospital with a man named Weir, from Belleville, Dr. Faulkner's "home town"; the replacement of Floyd Green, a truck driver at the same hospital, with "one Bundett, a ministerial protege from Belleville"; the alleged granting of special house and furnishing privileges to Mr. Holton from Belleville, bursar of the Ontario Hospital at Hamilton; the replacement of Dr. W. M. Seymour as dental officer at Orillia with two appointees: the replacement of James Lonergan, payroll custodian, with a Liberal appointee; the dismissal of Robert Beattie as farm director at Whitby, "because his position was not warranted," and the appointment in his place of R. H. Clements at an increased salary; and the dismissal of one, George Bettie, a blacksmith, and the appointment in his place of "a man named O'Connor."

Mr. Nesbitt at this point earned a thunder of Conservative desk-thumping and laughter by commenting: "These O'Connor appointments are becoming quite a habit with the present Administration. First, it was Senator O'Connor, then Judge O'Connor, and now it's Mr. O'Connor. I'm quite sure that, when the present Government dies, the duties of pallbearers will be ably undertaken by the O'Connor family."