HEALTH BILL INCOME FLOOR IS INDICATED

After a three-day delay on second reading, the Ontario Government's bill to provide municipal health services was still in committee stage after a two-hour discussion in the Legislature yesterday, during which six Opposition amendments were turned down.

Health Minister Dr. R. P. Vivian did, however, agree to bring in an amendment later, on suggestion of J. B. Salsberg (L.P., Toronto-St. Andrew), that an income "floor" be set below which taxes would not be levied for the plan. The Government also will bring in another amendment of a minor nature.

The Opposition argued that those receiving health services, such as industrial workers and farmers, should be represented on the central supervisory board and, as Mr. Salsberg urged, "remove the bill from the realm of imaginary collective bargaining." A. H. Acres (P.C., Carleton) pointed out that the bill was a foundation and that amendments could be made later as required.

Supervisory Activity Necessary.

Premier Drew told the House that since the health plan must be approved by municipalities, the central board carried a supervisory activity that must exist before appointment of local boards. Opposition Leader Jolliffe still maintained that representatives of those receiving services should be on the board and the Opposition amendment asked that two members of the projected board of seven or 10 represent those giving the services and two those receiving them.

The Opposition also wanted assurance that municipalities would handle the money they raised for the health plan. H. C. Nixon, Liberal Leader, declared that there had never been any statement that the board should be all technical men, and thought the ground taken by the Premier was "strong and democratic." The Government, he said, "is entitled to free choice of representatives on a board for which they must take responsibility."

To a demand by Arthur Williams (C.C.F., Ontario) that the Government state whether the board would be all technical personnel, Health Minister Dr. Vivian declared: "The board is set up to do a job—to bring to municipalities a co-ordination of such services as are procurable and desirable. No mention was made of representation." The board would, in effect, represent technical personnel, but would not necessarily be all technical. All the professions couldn't be listed on it. But it was the Government's intention to place on the board people represnting the general public as well as technical advisers.

Attorney-General Blackwell explained in reply to exemptions of certain persons from taxation, that this could be worked out through the good judgment of municipalities and the department before the bill was in effect, and before any one became taxable. He suggested that an amendment would be brought in to give municipalities power to exempt "those of minimum income standards."

To William Dennison (C.C.F., Toronto-St. David), Dr. Vivian gave assurance that there was no "maximum" of services in mind, simply a fixing of services up to the level possible with available facilities. The standard would be as high as possible.

Charles Millard (C.C.F., York West) said that the Government's plan to have only technical men on the board appeared to him to be carrying the medical "closed shop" into the health plan.

Jolliffe Denies CIO Contributed $500,000 to CCF Campaign Funds

C.C.F. Opposition Leader E. B. Jolliffe was asked directly in the Legislature last night by A. H. Acres (P.C., Carleton) whether it was true that the C.C.F. received half a million dollars in campaign funds "from a large and wealthy organization across the line which caused trouble in this Province during the Mitchell Hepburn Administration." He said the organization was "represented by John L. Lewis" (C.I.O.).

"Absolutely untrue," was Mr. Jolliffe's immediate reply.

"Perhaps there was more than that," shot back Mr. Acres, who added that Mr. Lewis had had, according to reports, "over $64 million at his disposal." Labor in this country, he added, "should not be controlled by leaders and agitators from the United States."