

# Climbing Hospital Costs May Boost Insurance Bill

OTTAWA (CP)—Spiralling hospital costs may boost the cost of the national hospital insurance scheme well beyond the original estimate, the Senate health committee was told Wednesday.

Dr. J. W. Willard, head of the health department's research division, estimated that if all provinces get into the scheme next year, the share of costs borne by the federal treasury would rise to about \$215,000,000 for a full year.

However, hospitals had been gripped by "considerable inflation" in the last four or five years, with their administrative charges rising between six and

10 per cent annually.

This rise will continue, he predicted, if the present pressure on wages and the price of other goods hospitals need also continue to increase.

Senator Thomas Crerar (L.—Manitoba) predicted on that basis that the federal treasury's burden would rise to \$275,000,000 or \$300,000,000 in five years.

**EXPANSION NEEDED**

Replying to other points raised, Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, deputy health minister, agreed that the demand for hospital beds is increasing and that hospitals likely will have to expand.

Senator F. A. McGrand (L.—

New Brunswick), a medical doctor, suggested an expansion of home-care services might help reduce costs and the need for hospital beds.

Dr. Cameron agreed but argued that the initiative in this field should come from the provinces and not the federal government.

Senator McGrand said the initiative should come from the federal government since it was paying a large part of the over-all insurance bill. Otherwise there may be a tendency for more and more persons to be ordered to hospitals for treatment.

## BRISTOL

The opening dance in the new Legion ball room was held last week with a large crowd in attendance. This new dance floor will feature dancing every week with a city orchestra. Many come from all parts of the Island to attend the weekly dances. The Legion club rooms are on the upper floor away from the ball room.

Mrs. Herb MacDermott was in the city last week on business.

Mr. Charlie Eldershaw, who was in the Provincial Sanatorium for two years, has arrived home. His friends hope that he will soon be feeling well again. One of the top fishermen in the community, Charlie worked too hard in the past and broke his good health.

Miss Ursula Alyward, who is employed with the Telephone Company in Souris, was a week-end visitor with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. Bill Alyward.

Miss Emily MacDonald, East Point, was a visitor in the village for a short time last week. Many people remember Emily from the time when she resided in this community.

Mr. George MacDonald, a former Bristol boy, was the leading man in a happy event which took place in Charlottetown on Saturday. Mr. MacDonald married Miss Vera Edwards, a city girl. Many people from this vicinity attended the wedding and reception which was held at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William MacDonald. After an evening reception, which was held at the home of the bride's grandparents, the happy couple left on a mainland honeymoon. When they returned, they took up residence in Charlottetown, where Mr. MacDonald is on the staff of Canada Packers Limited and the bride is an employee of the Charlottetown Guardian and the

Evening Patriot.

Mr. James MacDonald, who was working with the C.N.R. extra crew, has left his job and accepted a position with the Irving Oil Co. in Charlottetown. Mr. MacDonald commutes from his home to the city daily.

Trout fishing is pretty slow now that millions of gasperaux have invaded the streams. Some streams are so full of the hering-like fish that they form a bridge and are dipped out with dip nets.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Webster, former residents of this vicinity who purchased the Glen Alder cabins some years ago, have re-opened for the season. Many fine comments have been heard on the friendliness and hospitality of the couple.

Miss Sheila Gauthier, who was a patient in the Charlottetown Hospital, is around again and in much better health.

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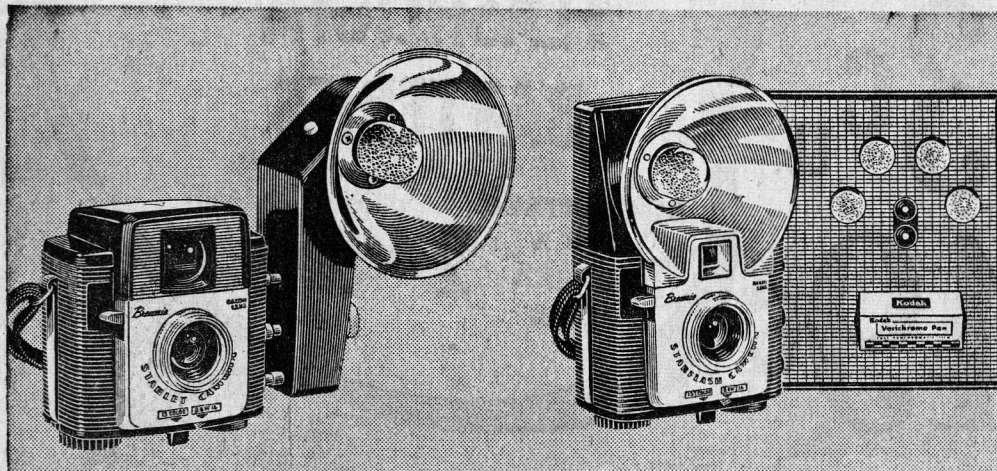
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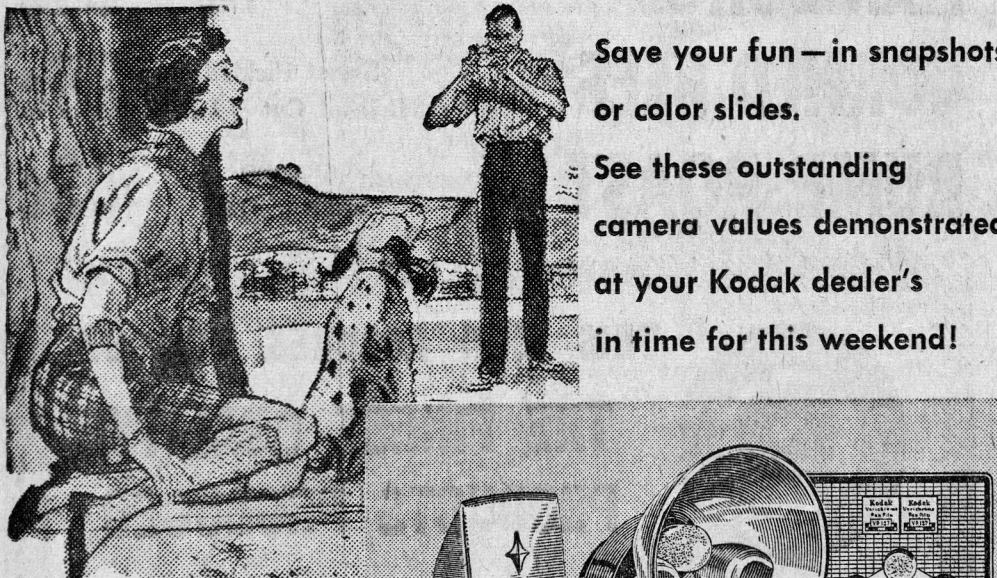
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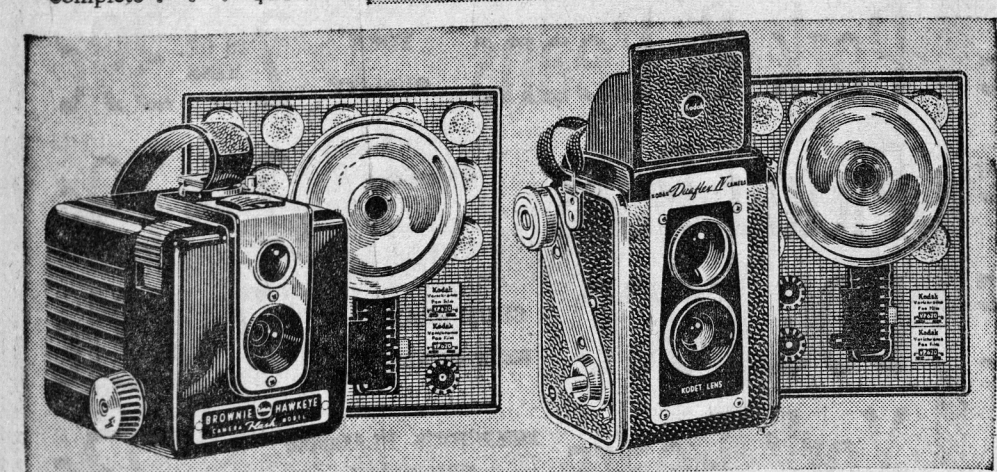
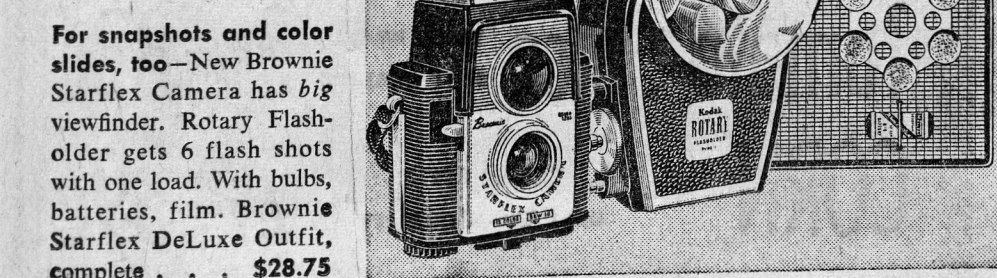
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