I concur with the statement of the minister both as to the number of doctors who might exercise this right and as to the desire of doctors to have this right available to them. But I am concerned and perplexed as to how a doctor can practise outside a bill of this nature when everything he does is insured under the plan. I would like the minister to explain how this can be done, because it brings up another point.

If doctors can practise outside the plan, and therefore presumably charge fees to their patients, can the patients then go to a governmental agency in a province and receive reimbursement since, under another provision of the bill, they are insured persons? I would like to have clarification from the minister on this point because I frankly do not see how this can be done. I am not proposing any amendments but would like the assurance of the minister on this point with respect to paragraph (d).

Mr. Lewis: Surely that would come under provincial plans?

Mr. Brand: But provincial plans, if I may answer the hon. member, will depend entirely on the bill that we pass here. That is the point we have been making for the past day or so. This depends on how provincial plans will operate within the framework of the federal scheme. If the minister would be kind enough to answer me then I would be prepared, in view of the fact the minister may want time to consider the amendment before us, to move, seconded by the hon. member for Simcoe East that clause 2(d) stand for the time being.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I intend to be quite brief because I realize the committee has spent considerable time on this clause to date, something which has been worthwhile—

Mr. Fulton: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I understand there is a motion before the Chair that the paragraph stand, and therefore I am wondering whether ordinary debate can continue until that motion is disposed of.

Mr. MacEachen: If I may intervene, Mr. Chairman, I think when the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam read his amendment the committee agreed to stand paragraph (d) at that time, but debate continued on the paragraph. I do not really know where we stand now.

Mr. Herridge: Well, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Fraser Valley continued after the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam completed his remarks, and I am sure we all enjoyed the remarks of the hon. member for Fraser Valley, something I do not do on all occasions. However, I intend to be quite brief—

The Chairman: Order, please. It is my understanding that what actually happened when the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam moved his amendment was that it was agreed to defer a decision on whether or not the amendment was in order, but it was not agreed at that time to stand paragraph (d). There is now a motion before the committee, moved by the hon. member for Saskatoon, that paragraph (d) stand.

Mr. Lewis: On that point of order, Mr. Chairman, and with great respect may I say that the motion was not moved. What the hon. member said was that if the minister would answer his question he was prepared to move such a motion, but he did not move it at that time. The motion, therefore, has not been moved, and I respectfully submit that the hon. member for Kootenay West is entirely in order.

Mr. Brand: This is the way I phrased it, Mr. Chairman, and I have not received an answer from the minister.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Kootenay West.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. Herridge: That is as we heard it here, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, I intend to be quite brief but I do want to express my support for the amendment moved to clause 2(d) by our leader, the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam. Once again, I might say I am sort of an elder statesman when it comes to supporting the principle of a national health insurance scheme. One always falls back on this "elder statesman" theme when one finds that he no longer is young and his memory is failing. I might say there is only one other member in this house, other than the member for Kootenay West, who supported a national health scheme at the time of the election of 1921, and that is the hon. member for Cochrane. I might say that since that time the others have gone to their reward, to defeat, to retirement, or to the other place; some were not residents of Canada at that time and others were not born. I have had long experience in advocating this principle.