

Established Programs Financing

of paying 50 per cent, it is bringing in unilaterally this Bill which will actually give Alberta 24 per cent of its costs, unless you include the tax transfer agreements which have nothing to do with medicare and which would bring it up to 34 per cent of the cost.

I ask the Hon. Member: In his view does he think the federal Government has the right now under the BNA Act to force this type of thing upon the provinces without an agreement?

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, with all due deference to my colleague, who has I think much overstated my capacity as a constitutional lawyer, it is my view that the Minister of National Health and Welfare has no business whatsoever in dealing with the administration of health care services in this country. She is using the spending leverage of the Government of Canada to get this agreement. We cannot in any way divorce this Bill from the extension of the six and five program to funds over which the Government of Canada should have absolutely no control, because the funds do not belong to it. In many instances it is merely acting as a collection and distribution agent. This is part and parcel of what was finally agreed to in order to put an end to the jungle of tax levies and collections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but the period allotted for questions and comments is terminated. The Hon. Member may continue briefly with unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lambert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to thank Hon. Members as well. I will be brief.

We have thus seen an intrusion and a self-assumed right to amend agreements between sovereign governments. It was, as I said, also the extension of the six and five program. It is also related to the Minister's dogmatic, in fact one might say dialectically dogmatic, insistence that she and her officials will run the health care system in Canada. To this extent they have used demagoguery, and they have inculcated in the people of Canada some sort of spirit of acquired right to medical services; that their right to medical services is the equivalent to the right to free speech, the right to worship, the right to freedom and the right to freedom from imprisonment without a fair trial. We now have this sort of floated right to medical services. I do not think that would stand up at all, Mr. Speaker for the reasons that this is an undue extension of six and five into a field where the Government of Canada has no right of ownership of the funds, and that there is a centralization right in the Minister of National Health and Welfare to control medical services in Canada.

● (1250)

Mr. Cosgrove: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. After consultations with the House Leaders of all Parties and discussions this morning, I have their consent and now seek the unanimous consent of Members to table the report of the Special Joint Committee on Senate Reform.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. That request would still have to be consented to by the House and it should be worded in terms of moving to presentation of reports from standing and Special Committees at this stage, after which we would revert to Government Orders.

Hon. Members have heard the proposal. Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

SENATE REFORM

PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Special Joint Committee on Senate Reform in both official languages on which, pursuant to Standing Order 69(13), the Committee requests a comprehensive response.

[*Editor's Note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING ACT, 1977

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg-North): Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a Bill under the provisions of which the Government proposes to limit the increase in the financial support it provides for post-secondary education to 6 per cent for the year 1983-84 and to 5 per cent for the year 1984-85.