

Medicare

the hospital insurance plan and receive a fiscal compensation. If that could be done in the field of hospital insurance, why would it not be right in the case of medicare? That was good for the pension plan, since Quebec has its own program. That was also good for youth allowances of \$10 per student of 17 and 18 years of age since Quebec received a fiscal compensation. Health also is under provincial jurisdiction. Why would it not be right to provide for a fiscal compensation at this moment? It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this would be the logical thing to do.

The amendment is before the house. We will be able to see what the Quebec members will do. I do not see many of them in the house; I think there are now five or six, on the Liberal side, but in my opinion they are the best. For example, I would say that the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) is one of the best. Unfortunately, I have not yet heard him speak; I am eager to see what he will do with regard to this question.

I see the member for Matapédia-Matane (Mr. Tremblay), certainly one of the more likeable Quebec members. Unfortunately, I have not heard him speak. I am anxious to see what course he will adopt with regard to the amendment. The amendment has been accepted in accordance with the rules of procedure but this does not put it off the bill indefinitely; on the contrary, it simply allows the members to say that they would like to see a fiscal compensation system for the provinces which will implement their own medicare plan.

What stand will the Associate Minister of National Defence take on that? I am anxious to know. I see that he is now consulting with the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) and I hope he is trying to convince him.

I should also like the member for Matapédia-Matane, a former minister, to try and convince his colleagues.

I see the member for Hochelaga (Mr. Pelletier) who should also take part in this discussion to try and convince the Minister of National Health and Welfare. If he feels that health comes under provincial jurisdiction, that Quebec can set up its own plan and is entitled, in return, to fiscal compensation, he should rise and say so.

Unfortunately, I do not see the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) at this time. His support of our amendment today would be valuable, because he

has the knack of bringing people around to his views. He says: "That is how it is going to be or else I resign". Therefore, we need the help of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Unfortunately, he has been away since the beginning and has not spoken on this matter. We have yet to hear him defend the rights of Quebec.

I remember, for instance, that when we discussed the bill concerning the railway workers' return to work, Bill C-1, I believe, no the bill we passed during the emergency session called at the time of the railway strike, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration stated on one occasion: "Since it is morally in the bill, it is as good as if it were actually in the bill."

In order to reassure us, Mr. Speaker, I should like to see him this evening, as well as the other Quebec ministers and members, rise and say: It is morally in the bill; it is better than if it were actually written in it.

I see another member coming in, the member for Shefford (Mr. Neveu). I also hope—

An hon. Member: Not the member for Shefford, but the one for Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière (Mr. Yanakis).

Mr. Grégoire: Pardon me, the member for Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière. I do not see him, because he is sitting just behind me, this is why I do not always notice him.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that in their innermost heart, the Quebec members would like to see that included. And the proof is that the other day, when I asked that a provision for a fiscal compensation be included the member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette)—who unfortunately is not here this evening, and I regret it—thought it it was included and I then said, as recorded on page 8752 of *Hansard* October 17, left column at the bottom of the page and I quote:

There are in the house some Quebec members. They know quite well that if the province of Quebec does not take part in this scheme, it will pay taxes from which it will derive no benefit, but which will be allotted to other provinces.

And then I heard the member for Lotbinière repeat and this is recorded in *Hansard*:

"And what about fiscal compensations?"

He was anticipating fiscal compensations, but I believe that he had not even read the bill, since we had to tell him that there was none, since section 8 provided that there would be no fiscal compensation before 1972, that is in 6 years time.