

*Medicare*

everyone's participation in this plan an indication that the government feels that individuals are not even able to look after themselves, have no right to do so, and that this great magnificent government can look after them better than they can?

All this has happened before, Mr. Speaker. As I sit here and watch what is going on over there, I sometimes think that if those people who were kicked out in 1957 had learned their lesson they would not be saying now that they have all the answers, that this program should not go to a committee to be discussed and that this program will look after the people better than the people can look after themselves. There are a lot of people in Canada who are becoming wise to the situation and who are realizing there is no pie in the sky and that this plan will cost them money. The people of Canada want to be free and they want the opportunity to look after themselves.

• (5:00 p.m.)

The fourth item in the amendment proposed by my colleague from Simcoe East has to do with a matter which was so ably expressed by him when he spoke on the resolution. I refer to the necessity, before any such plan is implemented, of there being an adequate number of doctors, an adequate number of hospitals and an adequate amount of research to look after the people. Every effort should be made to ensure that in Canada the best type of medical care is provided for our people.

As the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Tolmie) mentioned, a plan such as this one is not going to bring the very best brain specialist to the door of every person in Canada; it is not going to bring the best heart surgeon to the door of every person in Canada. There are just not enough of these men to go around. I cite my own case as an example. I live in a village of 1,200 people and we have one doctor to look after all the people within ten miles of that village. Granted, some of those people go to other places, but they have to do so. This doctor has only one pair of hands and he can only be in one place at a time. We do not have enough doctors in Ontario or in Canada to service a program of this type at the present time. We will not have enough by 1968, the time it is proposed to start this program.

I am certainly in favour of this part of the amendment. Before we bring in any comprehensive plan we should do our utmost to see that we have the medical people and the

medical facilities available. We should have sufficient personnel to look after all our people, and we do not have enough at the present time. The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) mentioned this as one of the priorities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the amendment mentions something we have been seeking and that is a plan to look after the people who do not have the money to look after themselves. I do not believe we have to wait for two years to implement such a plan. This is a priority and something we should be thinking about. Of course, we think of some of the other plans that were introduced and which were supposed to look after many of these people. We think of the Canada Pension Plan. We well remember that great plan which was introduced by the hon. lady and when she finished speaking she said it was a plan to ensure that all the people of Canada would be able to retire in security and in dignity. What a wonderful plan that was! It was wonderful in conception but terrible in prosecution. We know that the government has introduced another piece of legislation to remedy the deficiencies in the Canada Pension Plan and look after the very people who were not allowed to participate in that plan and who should be looked after immediately.

There is another class of people who need help, Mr. Speaker. Somebody mentioned the genteel poor. This is a class of people which is increasing day by day because of the inflationary tendencies in our economy. I have heard some people say that this great medical plan will not affect our finances so there is no reason for not introducing it now. Our experience has been that social measures cost money. We are wondering why we are having inflation. I wonder how much the Canada Pension Plan has contributed to the present labour unrest. On January 1 of this year every man working in a factory, store, foundry or mill had a payroll deduction for the Canada Pension Plan. He was probably buying a house and a car and had debts or perhaps sick children at home. He went home with less money than he had the month before. Do you not think he was provoked? He was not so worried about what might happen to him 10, 20 or 30 years from now; he had problems now. What about the manufacturer who has to pay the other half of the pension contributions? We are talking about socialistic schemes. Do you think he can afford to pay his half? Do you not think that amount was added to the price of the product he sells?