

*Medicare*

this does not clear up the question inasmuch as the Canadian National still will not say whether it has sufficient box cars to do both jobs?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the position of the Canadian National. The Canadian National has a large but after all limited number of cars and it uses these cars as the wheat board directs in order to meet the shipping program and the needs of our customers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a supplementary question.

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister has read part of the message from the wheat board, would he now table the entire message?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, this is a message that I received yesterday in response to a conversation. This is between myself and the wheat board. I have put these words forward because this is what the wheat board reported to me. I do not think I am under any obligation to table the rest of the message. Though I have no particular objection I think this is a matter in which the minister must exercise discretion. He should not be compelled by the house to lay before hon. members privileged messages.

**Mr. McIntosh:** On a point of order, I think the rules of the house make it necessary that the minister table the document, if requested to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think that that is the exact rule.

**PUBLIC SERVICE****REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING SALARIES OF POSTAL WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. About a week ago I asked the Postmaster General if he had received representations from the International Association of Machinists in Toronto protesting the inadequacy of the pay increases granted to its members. After orders of the day the minister indicated that he would take the matter under advisement. Has the minister done so and is he in a position to respond?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** I have received the letter, Mr. Speaker. I must advise the hon. member that increases in salary for all civil servants including postal employees are the responsibility of the Treasury Board.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE**

The house resumed, from Monday, October 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of Bill No. C-227, to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada toward the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plans, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Rynard.

• (4:00 p.m.)

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, when the house rose last night I was making the point that medical care legislation is fundamentally a provincial matter and that in giving financial assistance to such plans the federal government should not attempt to rewrite them or to dictate them contrary to the wishes of the provincial legislatures. Each province knows what it can afford; it understands its local and immediate problems and is aware of the political philosophy which its people support. The fundamental requirement for federal support of a medicare plan should be social justice, that is, free premiums and care for those in need and assistance for those with low incomes. The remainder of the plan should not concern the federal government.

That is not what the present plan seeks to do. It would force upon the provinces a plan favoured by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) under the threat of withholding financial support. The mere fact that the plan is being postponed for a year for economic reasons is a potent argument in favour of the amendment before the house.

The fundamental difference between our approach as Conservatives and that of the Liberal party and the New Democratic Party is that we would provide first of all for the needy and for those in the lower income brackets whereas they are calling for a massive re-direction of income into state coffers for the payment of premiums. This not only directs more power to government but it