

Medicare

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the point of order raised by the minister. I admit at the outset that there is some but only a very limited similarity between the purposes proposed by this amendment and those proposed by the amendments moved to paragraph (d). But on the other hand, sir, I submit to you that there are very real differences which compel a different decision on this amendment from that which you arrived at with respect to the earlier amendments.

I make this submission on a number of grounds. The first is that nowhere in the resolution is "medical practitioner" defined. Indeed, sir, nowhere is "medical practitioner" even referred to in the resolution. With respect to insured medical care services the minister was able to point to those words which were used in the resolution, and he submitted that any attempt to enlarge the meaning of that phrase went beyond the scope of the resolution. However, sir, as I point out, the words "medical practitioner" are not referred to in the resolution.

Therefore this bill is the first place where the use of the words "medical practitioner" occurs and I submit to you, with deference but with all seriousness and urgency, that while, as you have said, it is not the Chair's responsibility to define any of these terms, neither is it the minister's responsibility to define them or to say, "If I"—the minister—"think they should be defined in this way then the committee is precluded as a matter of order from substituting its definition for that which I have put in the bill."

Such a proposal is not a point of order, nor does it really raise a question of whether the amendment is in order. What is involved is the right of parliament or a committee of parliament to say, no, we don't think your definition is sufficient or adequate and we suggest and move as an amendment that some other definition be substituted.

I am prepared to admit that in such a case one goes back to the resolution, according to the minister's point of order, to see if the resolution sets any limitation on the meaning of the words. If we do so, we find not only does it not set any limitation but it does not even mention the words. Thus, in my submission, *prima facie* this committee is entitled to say what it thinks should be the definition of "medical practitioner."

Coming to the question of definition, I want to refer to some standard dictionary definitions, and I take the authority of the Concise Oxford Dictionary which is on the table of the

[Mr. MacEachen.]

house and available to all members of the committee. I first look at the word "medical" as defined on page 756, because in this argument we are dealing with the definition of "medical practitioner." At page 756 the first definition of "medical"—adjective and noun—is found to be "of the healing art."

I point out to you sir, that the amendment now proposed describes "medical practitioner" for the purposes of this act as "any person lawfully engaged in the practice of rendering services to individuals in the field of the healing arts." Unless the minister is going to challenge the Concise Oxford Dictionary he cannot deny that persons engaged in the field of the healing arts are medical practitioners by definition.

Second, the Concise Oxford Dictionary at page 914 defines the word "physician." Last night and today the minister was at pains to say that the only kind of service and the only kind of practice that could be contemplated in this bill, because of the resolution, are those rendered by qualified medical doctors, and I suppose he would include "physician" within the meaning of the term "medical doctors" or "medical practitioners." At the bottom of page 914 and the top of page 915 the Concise Oxford Dictionary defines "physician" as a noun in these words, "one who practises the healing art including medicine and surgery."

Mr. Lewis: What about some sciences?

Mr. Fulton: I am dealing with the science of definition at the moment and I rely for my authority on the definitions contained in the Concise Oxford Dictionary. By definition "medical" means "of the healing art" and a physician, who is certainly a medical practitioner, is "one who practises the healing art." Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I submit to you that by definition "medical practitioner" includes or means a "person lawfully engaged in the practice of rendering services to individuals in the field of the healing arts", as is set forth in this amendment.

Now I come to the minister's next point, that by amending the bill to include such a definition we are going outside the scope and intent of the resolution, and I quote the minister's own words to refute his own argument. I have here *Hansard* for June 14, 1966. The point I am making is that the minister now says, "in this bill we meant"—the government meant and the Governor in Council meant—"only qualified medical doctors." But he has not specified this in the resolution. He only says, "that is what we meant," and he