

Royal Assent

service. My proposal if accepted, is to provide the provinces with an opportunity, if they so wish, to remove eye refractions from insured services. If they leave that service in, that is fine with us, but if they wish to take it out that is possible.

Mr. Fulton: I think now we have the principle pretty clearly established that the provinces are to be encouraged to take a medical service out of their scheme because of the minister's stubbornness. Why does the minister not take the other course and encourage the provinces to include these services in the field of healing arts? Surely, he should be saying that if the provinces wish to include them the federal government will pay 50 per cent of the costs. I do not think anything could illustrate more clearly the unfortunate and disastrous effect of this legislation, and the minister's stubbornness, than the clarification he has just given us of the course he proposes to follow.

I suppose one could keep the committee here all night giving illustration after illustration of what this is going to do to chiropractors, podiatrists, psychologists, optometrists and patients. The Canadian people who want health services are the important ones.

What will the minister accomplish by way of contradiction of his flowery descriptions of the objective of the government, the objective being to introduce a comprehensive health care plan for Canadians? I suggest what the minister is doing is taking a retrograde step and reducing this whole thing to an absurdity. He is imposing upon the professions which perform paramedical services—these are honourable professions engaged in the field of healing arts—virtual extinction. He is also imposing upon the medical practitioners, as narrowly defined, a burden which is intolerable because there are not enough to carry out the task at this time, and he is denying to Canadian people health services urgently required.

I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the minister that surely the minister should reconsider his stand in this respect and bring his legislative proposals into line with his expressed intentions and declarations. If he does so we will respect him for his sincerity, but if he does not then I submit we are entitled to attack him for the lack of it.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, I have one or two comments to make in respect of—

The Chairman: Order, please. Shall I rise and report progress and request leave to sit again at the next sitting of the house?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

• (5:50 p.m.)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, 30 November, 1966

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Robert Taschereau, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 30th November, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
A. G. Cherrier

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

• (6:00 p.m.)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to a certain bill.

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1967.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, will we continue tomorrow with the consideration of the medicare bill?

Mr. Drury: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

It being six minutes past six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.