

*Medicare*

United States and Seattle than with Ottawa. And any minister can vouch for what I am saying.

We are never told of the nationalist themes from British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick or the maritimes, we are not told of those of Mr. Smallwood, the premier of Newfoundland, certainly not, but why? Because it is a foregone conclusion that Mr. Smallwood is right and Mr. Johnson is wrong. Mr. Johnson is blamed for harping on nationalist themes; in respect to the Quebec-Brinco agreement, but no one will blame Mr. Smallwood. The minister never mentions that.

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** There is no relation whatsoever.

**Mr. Caouette:** The minister limits himself to accusing his French Canadian colleagues of always harping on the same nationalist themes within our province—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I must point out to the hon. member for Villeneuve that he was away when I made my speech; he came in at the end and consequently cannot see what justified my intervention.

The Quebec members were asked especially by the member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), to state whether or not there were fiscal compensations and we were asked to support the amendment before the house. Just as I was going to rise, the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) made a speech bearing solely on the claims of the province of Quebec with regard to medicare. My reference to nationalist themes was made in connection with that speech. The member for Villeneuve is just now proving that what I said is true, that it is not—he says so himself—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne):** —it is not a federal program, it is a federal assistance program—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I do not believe the hon. minister really has a question of privilege, he is discussing a specific point with the hon. member for Villeneuve, and I believe the hon. member for Villeneuve should be allowed to proceed.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I am completely flabbergasted by the minister's intervention, for he has just proven that I am right. Indeed, he has just shown that, as a French

[Mr. Caouette.]

Canadian minister—and this is a fact I deplore—he is the type of man who does not know his nose from his elbow. He says that the member for Roberval accused him of such and such a thing and, in answer, he is forced to declare that we of the province of Quebec always harp on the same old nationalist themes against the whole of Canada. I see the minister shaking his head, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister know or does he not know the meaning of his words?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I should like to give the hon. member the opportunity to express his own opinion with regard to the bill presently before the house.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, it is easy for me to say what I think of the bill, and it is also easy for me to say what I think of the irresponsible minister who spoke a while ago.

The amendment which has just been moved, requesting compensation for the province which does not wish to participate in the program means that it would be reasonable to grant some compensation to the province. But the bill states that there will be no compensation which, in my opinion, is totally dishonest towards any province. The minister knows that the province of Alberta does not agree to that proposal, British Columbia neither and that even if the province of Quebec accepts Brinco, it does not agree to the adjustment plan as provided in the bill.

It is not simply a matter of rehashing the same old Quebec nationalistic themes. When the minister says that the majority of the provinces have agreed to 50 per cent of the plan it means he has not consulted any of them; he certainly talks through his hat.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment before the house, requires the payment of a contribution or a compensation to the provinces. They will not agree to this plan. Quebec is one, not the only one, of the provinces which do not accept the plan. And in the name of what? In the name of freedom. And I think that like any other province in Canada, Quebec is entitled to its freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Bill No. C-227 simply provides for the payment to the provinces of 50 per cent of the cost of insured medical care services. The federal government does not lay out any medical plan or medicare to any province. Therefore, why object to the payment to the provinces of the required amounts for