

*Medicare*

I may tell the hon. member that I am quite agreeable to deferring the moving of this amendment until a later stage.

**Mr. Knowles:** Could we not, in line with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Kamloops, take clause 2 as it is, and call the paragraphs? There are amendments to be moved to some of these paragraphs and we could deal with them. Then, when we have had a discussion on the paragraphs, except for the present (k), we could take up the minister's proposed amendment.

My suggestion is that we take clause 2 as printed and call paragraphs (a) to (j) and deal with each of them in the proper order, discussing any amendments which may be moved and voting on them as may be necessary. Then, when we come to the present paragraph (k) the minister might move the amendment he is now suggesting. It seems to me that this suggestion, initiated by the hon. member for Kamloops, would make for a more orderly discussion.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I would conclude from what the hon. member has said that the question of date of the plan would not be discussed until we reach paragraph (k).

**Mr. Knowles:** That is correct, as far as we are concerned.

**Mr. MacEachen:** We would deal with other issues, and when we reach paragraph (k) it would be possible for the government to move the amendment which is now in the hands of the committee.

**Mr. Fulton:** That was the purpose of my intervention. We are agreeable to the modification suggested by the hon. member for Winnipeg North.

**Mr. Knowles:** Winnipeg North Centre.

**The Deputy Chairman (Mr. Rinfret):** Is it agreed that we proceed to consider paragraph (a) and thereafter each paragraph as it arises?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (4:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Rynard:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to dwell on some shortcomings of this bill which, in the long run, may defeat its purpose which is supposed to be the provision of the best possible medical care for the Canadian people. First of all, I wish to deal with some remarks the Minister of National Health and Welfare

[Mr. MacEachen.]

made on October 25, recorded at page 9104 of *Hansard*. On that occasion the minister said:

May I turn for a moment to the question of medical manpower and personnel? We admit naturally, the necessity for more doctors and additional personnel in all the health professions. Ideally, we will never likely have a sufficient supply of personnel and facilities.

**The Chairman:** Order. The Chair is just wondering whether we are now having a general debate or whether we are proceeding to discuss paragraph (a).

**Mr. Rynard:** I am developing my remarks to the point where I will have something to say about the clause.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Chairman, we have here a definition clause which, in my respectful admission, covers the whole ambit of the bill and it would be impossible to deal with the clause without making some general remarks. I think a similar situation arose on an earlier occasion this session and the chairman ruled that, by virtue of the wide ambit of the definition clause, he would allow a fairly general discussion. When the general discussion is concluded, we can then turn to discussion of the paragraphs of the clause *seiratum*.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. The Chair understands now that there should be general discussion on clause 2, and after that we will proceed to discussion of paragraph (a). Is this the understanding of hon. members?

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, there is an unofficial rule that an opposition member never complains about extended opportunities for debate but in this instance, and I press it very earnestly, I think we have to consider this matter thoroughly.

When we adopted our provisional rules, under which the discussion of clause 1 was postponed to the end—

**Mr. Churchill:** If it was just a title.

**Mr. Knowles:** Yes, if it was just a title, and that is what it is in this case, the purpose was that having had a general discussion on second reading we would not immediately have another general discussion on clause 1, but rather have it at the end of the debate in committee of the whole, if anyone wanted it at that time.

If we are going to get into this habit of having a general debate on clause 2 when it is a clause setting out definitions, we will be multiplying the opportunities for general debate. We will have a general debate on second reading, a general debate on clause 2, another