

*Medicare*

charts of the past with charts now issued by the medical profession, one sees that doctors are providing precisely the same service that was provided by chiropractors. To exclude these related services is indeed to exclude what are properly defined as physicians' services, which the Prime Minister said:

—seem to us to be the minimum scope of benefits which would qualify as medicare.

Not only is the minister taking this extraordinarily illogical step, bringing the whole effect of the bill and its surrounding atmosphere into disrepute, but he is going back completely on the assurance given to the provinces by the Prime Minister of Canada when he first outlined the proposed coverage under the government's medicare bill.

I join with those who urge the minister to reconsider his position, to be consistent, and to play fair and square with the Canadian people and with the provinces of Canada.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Chairman, as one fellow Scot to another, from the same island—

**Mr. Knowles:** A tight little island.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Yes. We have a tight little minister who does not want to include these other professions in the bill. I should think, as a Scot, he would want to include everything he can for his money, or for the people's money, in the bill.

**Mr. Davis:** You do not sound like a Tory.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** That interjection was made by the hon. member for Coast-Capilano?

**Mr. Davis:** The interjection, so that you may hear it, was, "You do not sound like a Conservative".

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I shall reserve a fuller reply to the hon. member for Coast-Capilano for another occasion.

● (4:00 p.m.)

However, he was closely involved with the Gordon royal commission and that commission did not have anything good to say about the maritime provinces or the maritime people. The suggestion was that we should get out of Nova Scotia and that no attempt should be made to establish industry, or anything else, there. The hon. member for Coast-Capilano was one of the sponsors of this crazy report, and I hope that what happened to the

former minister of finance will happen to him. Is there anything else the hon. member for Coast-Capilano wishes to say?

**Mr. Davis:** Since the hon. member has invited me to comment, I will simply say that if his reading of the bill presently before the committee is as bad as his misreading of my work in connection with the Gordon commission, then God help us.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** That is just what I might have expected. It is hard to get new wine out of an old bottle. Perhaps the hon. member for Coast-Capilano will advise us that he was only sharpening pencils for the Gordon royal commission.

The hon. member for one of the Ottawa constituencies asked a question the other day. That was his maiden speech in the house. I would ask him to relax for a moment while I say a few words to the minister.

**Mr. Tardif:** Your speeches do not give me any inspiration, I must say.

**The Chairman:** May I remind the committee that the question before us now is paragraph (f) of clause 2?

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I will be glad to comply with that expression of your views, Mr. Chairman. We will leave the hon. member for Russell to remain seated on what little brains he has.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** The hon. lady from Westmorland is shocked, I see. She made a howling noise. Let us hope she does not get too worried before I am finished.

**An hon. Member:** She is thinking of her lunch.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** We will ignore those remarks from the other side.

**Mr. Knowles:** The Postmaster General feels left out.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Let me say that the Postmaster General, to my mind, has always been a gentleman. I can only speak of him as I find him, in reply to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

To return to what I began to say, I should like to impress upon the minister the importance of including optometrists within the