

Motions for Papers

this motion, if the house will so consent. I believe the hon. member for Bow River made an agreement to withdraw his motion. Because and only because I would not leave a fellow parliamentarian, for whom I have very deep respect, in breach of his understanding, I give my consent.

The basic theory of our parliamentary system of government is the full accountability of the complete public service to this high court of parliament. The electoral boundaries commissions and the representation commissioner have taken the attitude that they are above and beyond parliament and not accountable to it, and that their papers are privileged and not open to parliamentary review. Therefore, with all the emphasis at my command, I assert that this is a travesty upon parliamentary government. I also want to say that I shall seek another early opportunity to bring to account the regrettable arrogance of the representation commissioner and the electoral boundaries commissions. It is only on that basis that I give my consent to the withdrawal.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Does the hon. member for Bow River have unanimous consent to withdraw notice of motion No. 121 standing in his name?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, there has been some suggestion that we rise till seven o'clock for a supper adjournment. If that is agreeable to the house it is agreeable to the government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is it agreeable to hon. members that we suspend private members' hour?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Does the house agree to suspend its sittings from now till seven o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 6.04 p.m. the sitting of the house was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 7 p.m.

[Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of Bill C-227, to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada toward the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plans, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Allard.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Nasserden) is allowed to continue his speech on the bill now before the house, I should like to refer if I may to an amendment produced earlier today by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) and seconded by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire).

The amendment was reserved to give the Chair an opportunity to look at it, and also to give hon. members an opportunity to give some thought to it from a procedural standpoint. I would ask for comments which hon. members might like to make at this time.

[Translation]

I would be happy to hear comments hon. members may have to make at this time to indicate if, in their opinion, the amendment moved by the hon. member for Sherbrooke is in order.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member would allow the minister to set forth any objection he may have.

[English]

Does the minister propose to give views from a procedural standpoint?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I have heard the amendment, although I have not received a copy of it, except in French. As I recall the proposal in the amendment it is that in the case of provinces not participating in the medical insurance plan a provision will be made for compensation to such provinces.

Mr. Churchill: That is opting-out.

Mr. MacEachen: I have great difficulty with this particular amendment, Mr. Speaker, because the resolution preceding the bill which received the recommendation of His Excellency proposed a particular financial scheme.