

*Medicare*

In other words they point out that a lot of these various difficulties in research have been caused by a lack of funds. I can give hon. members the statistics, but they are very long so I will not bore the house with them. The report goes on to say:

This lack of fuller support for medical research in Canada has a serious effect on the individuals conducting, or considering engaging in, medical research. If a major expansion in their numbers is to be brought about, the degree of support must be greatly increased above present levels.

The minister will undoubtedly say that the answer to those problems is to be found in the health resources fund bill, which, however, does not deal with the operating costs necessary for research. The Royal Commission on Health Services points this out on page 113, volume 2, where it is said that the operating cost was found to be 28.2 per cent of the entire operation. The minister will agree that this is a very substantial amount. We know that the projections of researcher requirements are much higher than allowed for by the government, and that is why our amendment reads—

(c) makes adequate prior provision for sufficient medical research,

I could read all of this subclause into the record, but I already did this when speaking previously on this bill.

A few minutes ago I said I thought it would be useful if we in Saskatchewan could use the money for setting up our own medical research fund. The Gundy report suggests at page 65 that the federal government is not alone in its concern. It uses the expression "for scientific development, and within that broad field for medical research." And it continues "As has been observed, provincial governments are also interested in setting up their own funds for this purpose." And I suggested a method in which this can be done. I could go on at length but I do not think this will make the point any clearer.

I now wish to deal with the fourth part of our amendment, which reads as follows:

(d) Immediately provides for those persons who are unable, for financial reasons, to provide medical services for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I think this requirement also is a basic one. I have heard a lot of pious statements from the left side of the house regarding how tough it is going to be for the people who are not able to afford medical care. I agree with that statement. But then hon. members from that party go on to say they will not support an amendment which provides for this category of people. I cannot

understand this attitude, in view of this statement by hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) on October 13 as reported at page 8620 of *Hansard*:

This is a sad day, because the action of the government in proposing the postponement of medicare for a year is a discrimination against the needs of the people in this country, particularly their medical needs, and I refer particularly to those people who cannot afford the medical care they require.

We on this side of the house agree with this statement, and that is why I wish to ask hon. members of the New Democratic Party whether they do not also agree that this is a necessity which should be provided now.

On page 8620 of *Hansard* the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre said:

We want this bill to go through and we are prepared to vote for it, but when we vote for it we will be voting for it in its present form.

Of course he is referring to the fact that his party does not wish this legislation to be deferred. However the hon. member is not prepared to vote for our amendment because he thinks we are trying to stymie medicare. This is not so, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for Waterloo North (Mr. Hymmen) quoted a passage from the Hall report which I now wish to read, and which was also referred to by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) and the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge). It appears on page 8680 of *Hansard* and is as follows:

While we are aware that shortages of physicians, dentists, nurses and other paramedical personnel will make it difficult to establish the full personal health services program our charter envisages, none the less the fact that there are shortages must not be used as an excuse to delay initiating programs and plans.

We agree with this absolutely. The hon. member went on to say that we are using this to try to kill the bill, and to try to delay everything. The contrary is true. We think there should be no excuse for delaying the initiation of programs and plans. We want the scheme started now. These two hon. members forgot to quote the rest of the passage, which I happen to have in front of me. I will quote from the Hall report, part of which appears on page 7585 of *Hansard* of July 12. I do not like quoting myself, but since this passage is the handiest one at the moment I will do so now.

I am quoting from the Royal Commission on Health Services, page 1, volume 2, where it says:

We consider quality as the most essential element in health services, and every aspect of the programs must be constantly directed to that end.