

*Government Organization*

regardless of what the minister says. Obviously he has not met with the Canadian Medical Association because the members of that body know very well there are not sufficient doctors. Compare the results with countries like Sweden, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., etc.

As I said before, many people in this country are losing their lives because they are not able to get necessary medical care in an emergency. We have heard a lot of talk about paramedical services. I was happy to hear the minister admit that we should continue a program along these lines. He discussed this matter when he was in Hamilton recently and I am sure that he and I feel the same way about the need for increased paramedical services.

However, nothing can take the place of a well trained doctor. No matter how well trained an immigrant doctor is he cannot be expected immediately to meet our high standards and way of life. These doctors do not have the background in many cases or the training we have in our medical centres. Our Canadian population is entitled to the best medical care we can give them. It is a fraud and a fallacy to bring in a medicare plan that does not provide the medical care the people are paying for under the plan. There is not one university with a medical faculty not aware of the fact that there are not enough medical men in Canada at the present time. They all realize that our medical manpower is deficient.

The health resources fund was cut back by \$37 million in Ontario alone. Buildings have been left uncompleted, plans have been derailed and hospital construction is almost stopped because this government is not prepared to go ahead with its plans to provide money for medical research and the training of teachers necessary to staff our medical schools in order to provide the medical manpower so necessary to the success of the medicare plan.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Would the hon. member permit a question? Will the hon. member indicate whether he is of the opinion that there is a shortage of doctors in Saskatchewan at this time?

**Mr. Rynard:** I think there is a shortage of doctors throughout Canada, in almost every province.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Would the hon. member answer the specific question in respect of the province of Saskatchewan which provided the

[Mr. Rynard.]

first complete medicare coverage in North America?

**Mr. Rynard:** Mr. Chairman, I was speaking of Canada as a whole. I do not profess to know the situation in the province of Saskatchewan. I should not be expected to know what the situation is there, or whether there are three doctors in Estevan or only one or none. I was speaking of the broad picture across Canada. I expect that there may be a shortage of doctors in Saskatchewan. But let me point out to the hon. member that if my memory serves me correctly, half of the doctors in Saskatchewan were not born in Canada. If there is not a shortage there, perhaps this fact is the explanation.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that the lead-off speaker for the Official Opposition, the hon. member for Simcoe North, instead of discussing the Medical Research Council and problems in respect of medical research in this country, discussed the question of medicare. That is not the matter before the committee today. I do not intend to spend my time discussing the differences I have with the hon. member in respect of medicare. I do want to make one or two short comments about a specific matter referred to by him because I have some personal interest. I have in mind the question of immigrant doctors.

The hon. member said there are 1,500 immigrant doctors in Canada. He implied that their training and qualifications are not as good as doctors trained in Canada. I am not an expert on this subject, but the fact is that the bulk of these doctors work very hard in Canadian hospitals and provide excellent service. Many of our hospitals in urban centres such as Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg could not operate in the efficient way in which they have or provide service without these 1,500 immigrant doctors.

The hon. member for Simcoe North did a disservice to these doctors and these hospitals by the remarks he made. If he does not, he certainly should know that it is not the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare who decides whether their qualifications and training are sufficient or adequate to permit them to practise in any particular province. It is the college of physicians and surgeons in each province that makes this decision. That college in the province of Ontario is very tough. As I have said outside the house, that college has not only been tough but in my opinion it has been prejudiced.