

bill, which not only includes the general practitioner dentist but the specialist as well as the dental auxiliaries.

I believe the question raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) was about the term "denturist". I believe the term "dental auxiliary" is often used in the same context. I would like to extend my congratulations to the hon. member for Welland. He is a distinguished member of the medical profession and a distinguished surgeon. He has carried on a large practice in his home county for many years, so it is most fitting that he should be here promoting the bill which is before us today. Certainly, the ramifications of and the benefits from this bill, provided it is passed and that the national body is established, would be far reaching throughout the country.

The bill, as I mentioned earlier, would provide a national standard for the dental profession, both the general practitioners and the specialists as well as the auxiliaries. As the hon. member for Welland indicated, since the bill was first introduced there has been an exhaustive and extensive consultation between the department and the various groups throughout the country. He indicated also that several of the provinces—I believe six—do not feel it would be wise to have this national dental examining board include dental auxiliaries. Certainly, we do not have to read the daily newspapers extensively to note that there is a considerable debate going on in many of the provincial legislatures on this subject at present. Some provinces have opted for the denturists and those groups to be under the wing of the dental profession, and others for their establishment as a separate body.

In a news release put out by the Department of National Health and Welfare on August 16, 1972, the department endorsed the recommendations of the Wells Committee. I should like to read some excerpts from that release:

National Health and Welfare Minister John Munro today, on the advice of the Dominion Council of Health, which met on April 26 and 27, 1972, endorsed the principles expressed in the Report of the Wells Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Auxiliaries which dealt with matters relating to employment, training and regulation of dental manpower.

He also noted the Council's recommendation that governments examine the report in detail and implement its recommendations in accordance with their respective priorities. These priorities would include consideration of a dental program for children encompassing prevention, education and treatment.

The Ad Hoc Committee was a multi-disciplinary committee of lay and professional persons established in June 1968 under the chairmanship of the Honourable Dalton C. Wells, Chief Justice of Ontario, with the full co-operation of the Canadian Dental Association. Their report contained several recommendations covering such fields as the qualifications of dental assistants, hygienists and technicians, their training, education and experience as well as a full range of more responsible duties to allow them to contribute more effectively to the dental health requirements of this nation.

● (1730)

In the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Dental Auxiliaries, 1970, the Wells committee, several recommendations are made and I shall refer to some of them. For instance:

Recommendation 22: That a Canadian Council on Dental Auxiliaries be established.

Dental Examining Board

Recommendation 23: That the membership of the Canadian Council on Dental Auxiliaries consist of representatives from each of the provincial councils on dental auxiliaries and representatives, including dentists, named by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Recommendation 24: That the Canadian Council on Dental Auxiliaries deal with matters such as national certification and accreditation of educational and training institutions for dental auxiliaries.

The committee report suggested that there be a separate body. I quite agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that some changes will have to be made to the bill in committee and I agree with what the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Railton) is proposing, that the bill go forward to committee for thorough study. I believe there will be a number of amendments along the lines of not taking in the dental auxiliaries and those groups under this national examining board but leaving that question to be decided at a later date. Whether they would some day come in under this national examining board or, as the Wells committee recommended, they would be a separate body could be decided at a later date.

The bill before us will certainly have many advantages for the professional dentists and the dental specialists, in that once they have completed their training they will be able to take the national board examination. As I understand this, it will qualify them to be licensed in the province in which they plan to practice. This would be a great advantage and would ensure the portability of this professional group. Portability is an important aspect as there is a shortage of professional people in this field. I graduated in veterinary medicine some years ago in the province of Ontario. When I wanted to practise in the province of Saskatchewan, I had to take the provincial board examination there. This is just one more thing that the new graduate from university has to do. A national board examination would entitle the graduate to be licenced to practice in any province.

There are many professional men and women who come to this country from other lands. Under our constitution it is the responsibility of the provincial bodies to license them to practice their profession. It is very difficult for every province to have the complete mechanism necessary for testing these graduates as they come from hundreds of universities all over the world. In the dental profession this one national examining body would become familiar with the various universities, their curriculums, their clinical training programs and the adaptability of their graduates to the Canadian professional scene. An expertise would be developed by the national examining board which would be beneficial in our total health program.

I believe that a great deal of consultation and co-ordination between the various groups went into the preparation of this bill. The departmental officials who worked on the bill and co-operated with the professional associations should be congratulated for their efforts.

Those are all the items I wanted to mention, Mr. Speaker. Changes will be made in the bill in committee, and I am confident that the departmental officials will want to give their assistance. I believe there is general agreement between the various professional groups and the sponsor of the bill, the hon. member for Welland, to make changes in the bill. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre