

Medicare

Mr. Grégoire: I rise on the point of order. A standing order that I could find for you in less than a minute, states that when a member's statement has been misinterpreted, the hon. member may rise to correct the interpretation given. Well, I should like to point out to the minister that the amendment, as moved, far from seeking to kill medicare in Canada, recognizes, on the contrary, the usefulness and necessity of a medicare plan; that the only thing it seeks to do is to provide, within that scheme for fiscal compensation for the provinces which will want to initiate their own medicare plans. That is not the interpretation given by the minister to my statement and that is not what was said.

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, if I may say so, the amendment is redundant since fiscal compensation is already provided for in the bill.

Mr. Grégoire: In four years.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Villeneuve.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I heard the minister talk about quibbling a while ago. This is the first time, honest, that I heard a quibbling minister talk about quibbling, when he stated that these were exceptional measures with regard to the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say to the minister that he does not seem to know what it is all about when he talks about quibbling in this house.

For the information of the minister, the Alberta government, which is a Social Credit government, did not have to wait for the intervention of the minister or of the Secretary of State of Canada (Miss LaMarsh) to reach a decision about a medicare plan in Alberta, while respecting the personal freedom of the individual, and the freedom of the family. And such a plan is now in force in Alberta. British Columbia did not have to hear the minister tell us that we spend our time, in Quebec, harping on the same Quebec nationalist theme. If the minister went to his constituency and made the same kind of speech, I am convinced that he would never again in his life be a minister in Ottawa, for he would not be re-elected in his constituency.

Mr. Speaker, there are limits—

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): May I interrupt for a moment.

Mr. Caouette: Certainly.

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): I speak the same way in my riding as I did a while ago in this house. And I would remind the hon. member for Villeneuve, that my main opponent in three elections was a Créditiste and that each time I increased my majority. That is because he came to campaign in my riding.

Mr. Caouette: The minister can indeed boast about the fact that he has been re-elected with a stronger majority in his riding, but not by saying in his constituency what he said a few minutes ago here in this house. And I challenge the minister to go and repeat in his riding what he has just said here. He would never dare to do so, because he knows he would then be defeated by his own French Canadian fellow-countrymen.

Mr. Speaker, there is a limit to being bamboozled and humbugged by ministers or members, whoever they are. We ask for the province of Quebec nothing more than we ask for the other Canadian provinces. But we want to insist upon the fact that Bill No. C-227 is not a proper medicare plan for Canada. I should like to impress that upon the minister. Bill No. C-227 specifies that the central government in Ottawa, and I quote:

An Act 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.

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): That was precisely my point.

Mr. Caouette: Why does the minister say we keep harping on the same Quebec nationalist tunes?

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Because you do.

Mr. Caouette: That is not true. Mr. Speaker, at noon today, I was at the University of Montreal where I probably met the minister's son—

An hon. Member: The minister's son is only three years old.

Mr. Caouette: Send him to the Rouyn-Noranda grade school. He will learn more than in the county of Terrebonne.

Mr. Speaker, at noon today, at the University of Montreal, while we were dealing with this plan before the students aged 20, 22, 23, 25, nobody heard any Quebec nationalist tunes.

● (8:50 p.m.)

Here in Ottawa we hear nationalist themes from Alberta and British Columbia who feel they have much more in common with the