

Medicare

[Translation]

Then, the member for Winnipeg North Centre includes in his amendment qualified optometrists who have made the same studies and who know where they are going. It would be unfair to them to pass legislation which would only take into account the care given by ophthalmologists to the detriment of optometrists or oculists in our country.

And moreover, Mr. Chairman, I think that podiatrists as well as chiropractors should be included in the bill. We often hear Canadians tell us that chiropractors have helped them more than some physicians.

Now, under the present circumstances, if one is not a physician but only a chiropractor, this is not enough. Chiropractors are called "bone crackers." But, Mr. Chairman, this is not my opinion. Chiropractors render services to the people and when medicine is helpless, the chiropractor is efficient, and he can cure while certain physicians are unable to make such cures.

Why are chiropractors, oculists, optometrists and podiatrists not included in Bill No. C-277? If this bill is apt to help only those who are already recognized, those who are already in a good position, it will not be very useful to Canadians.

● (9:50 p.m.)

My colleague from Mégantic (Mr. Langlois) said a while ago: Take 15 minutes, and go and meet the Governor General, to have optometrists, oculists, podiatrists and chiropractors recognized and included in Bill No. C-227. Mr. Chairman, we will not accept that it should not be so, especially in the province of Quebec. I am not aware of the situation in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but I know that in Alberta and in British Columbia, optometrists and even chiropractors are recognized, while here in Ottawa, here—

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

Mr. Caouette: A point of order?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is dealing with a wide range of subject matter. A short time ago the hon. member for Fraser Valley asked whether we were speaking to the point of order or to the amendment, and I suggest that the hon. member for Villeneuve should wait until a ruling has been given before getting into the general subject matter of the debate. Any comments

[Mr. Caouette.]

he wishes to make now could be made later after the point of order is disposed of.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking precisely on the point of order. The minister is asking the Chair for a ruling, but as far as the point of order is concerned, I would like to ask the minister to include in his bill the amendment moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and add to it: chiropractors and optometrists, not only when they are general practitioners or ophthalmologists—

[English]

Progress reported.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, November 28, 1966

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Robert Taschereau, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 28th November, at 9.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,

sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. Cherrier

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned:

● (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bill:

An act to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.