

*Medicare*

that event, the committee may feel that it will have to examine this question of the definition of banking and try to get away from the circular definition that we have at the present time.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

● (4:20 p.m.)

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE**

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare)** moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. C-227, 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.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

On clause 2—*Definitions*.

**Mr. MacEachen:** My purpose in rising at this point is not to make a long statement but to indicate to the committee the intention of the government to move an amendment to clause 2 of the bill. I would ask my colleague the Minister of Forestry to move this amendment, the purpose of which is to make a change in the clause to reflect the starting date of the medical care insurance bill as of July 1, 1968.

**Mr. Knowles:** Would the minister permit a question? Since the paragraph which would have to be amended in this connection is the last one in clause 2, may I ask whether the government has any amendment to move to any of the earlier subclauses?

**Mr. MacEachen:** The amendment which I propose involves the addition of a new paragraph (b) and the renumbering of the paragraphs from (b) to (k) as well as some changes in the last paragraph. I thought it would be better for the committee to have, at this point, the picture of the amendment and the renumbering as it affects the whole clause.

I will circulate this amendment to members of the committee and my colleague, the

Minister of Forestry, will move it. May I read the amendment? It simply asks—

That clause 2 of Bill C-227 be amended (a) by renumbering paragraphs (b) to (k) thereof as paragraphs (c) to (l), respectively, and adding as paragraph (b) thereof the following: (b) "contribution commencement day" means the 1st day of July, 1968, or such earlier day as the Governor in Council may fix by proclamation, being a day not less than six months after the day the proclamation is issued;

**Mr. Fulton:** May I ask a question and make a suggestion? I am sure the committee appreciates the minister giving notice of the form of the amendment which is intended by the government, but I should like to ask the hon. gentleman's co-operation inasmuch as those of us who have been considering the bill have done so on the basis of the form in which it presently appears, and such amendments as have occurred to us have been framed in that light.

Would the minister agree to defer the moving of this amendment until the discussions on matters brought forward from this side of the house have been completed? If certain proposed amendments are accepted, they would be on the basis of the bill as presently drawn up, and the minister's amendment would then have to be somewhat modified in terms of any changes which might have been accepted by the committee following our proposals. We do not have the advantage enjoyed by the government when preparing amendments; there is no staff to assist us. It would therefore be appreciated as a co-operative gesture if the minister would defer the moving of his amendment until we have had the opportunity to put forward such amendments as we have in mind.

**Mr. MacEachen:** May I at least complete the reading of the amendment before replying to the hon. member for Kamloops?

The second paragraph of this amendment reads:

(b) by substituting the expression "contribution commencement day" for the expression "1st day of July, 1967" where it appears in paragraph (l) thereof.

The effect of the proposed amendment is to renumber the paragraphs of clause 2 as a result of including a new paragraph, paragraph (b) defining the expression "contribution commencement day" and, secondly substituting the expression "contribution commencement day" for the expression "1st day of July, 1967" where it appears in definitions paragraph.