

*Medicare*

previous Liberal prime ministers, as well as the former prime minister, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker). So I am wondering where co-operative federalism leads.

I notice that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) made a statement, which was reported in Saturday's *Montreal Star*, when he addressed a dinner meeting of the Canadian Alliance. I am a little surprised that some hon. members did not ask the minister about this statement on Monday. I was out of the house on that day or I would have asked him whether this was another stated change in government policy. I do not know whether I should quote the minister directly or paraphrase. I heard some paraphrasing earlier in this session which sounded almost like a direct quote, and I do not know whether that is good or bad. However, according to the *Montreal Star* the minister, who also believes strongly in provincial jurisdiction, rights and priorities, said that Ottawa had systematically invaded fields of provincial jurisdiction since the war and that this would have to stop. Then the minister went on to say that the federal government must get out of fields of provincial jurisdiction. That is, I presume, other than education.

With the constitution and tradition which we have, there is no more fundamental field of provincial jurisdiction than the administration of health in the provinces. This is a subject which touches human needs and passions, and with regard to which we need a program for all Canada in order to have close administration at the provincial level of the medical needs of the people who unfortunately become afflicted with disease, and who require assistance to pay their bills. This is a basic in education. Yet here is the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who chooses to remain silent in this debate on a bill which is basic to provincial rights, last Saturday having the temerity and effrontery to insult the people of Quebec and the rest of the people in Canada. I know he is a fine man, but on this particular point, as a constitutional lawyer and as a responsible minister, he makes the statement that Ottawa should get out of provincial jurisdiction, and does not try to reconcile that statement in this house with the provisions of the bill.

The Minister of Finance, long before there was any conclave at any Chateau close to these hallowed halls, told a fiscal meeting of finance ministers on September 14 that he was going to bring forward a whole new

[Mr. Nowlan.]

concept in order to help implement this co-operative federalism that we have all heard so much about. Among other things, the Minister of Finance suggested that we must recognize that the provinces have more and more wanted to assume full responsibility for initiating and operating their own programs, and that their ability to do so has grown demonstrably since the war. He said that this has been especially true of Quebec and that we must recognize the aspirations of the provinces.

You have probably heard that statement before, Mr. Speaker, which was uttered by the present Minister of Finance; whether he is heir apparent or heir not-so-apparent, I cannot say. He is a responsible minister and was pinpointing the real and valid interest the provinces have in their own fields, and how Ottawa should not cut into these fields, as is the case here.

I have talked about the constitutional problem and why I think members opposite should speak out on it, especially the great phalanx from the province of Quebec. I have no hesitation at all in voting for the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard). This postponement has had several birth pangs. I think in the early stages of the debate the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) said something about midwives. That was in connection with immigration; but there have been many stages to this gestation period. As the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) said, we must not forget this long period of 47 years which it has taken hon. members opposite to bring forward medicare. There have been many stops and starts.

This is why once again I find it illogical for the minister of health not to pay heed to the part of the amendment moved by the hon. member for Simcoe East which suggest we institute this pilot project to which I have referred. If there is a doctor shortage, as we suggest there is, the problem will only be compounded by giving the provinces an across-the-board payment. Let us start with a pilot project. What is wrong with that? I think especially of those who cannot pay for medical care now, such as those on provincial assistance, old age assistance, those over 65.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the federal government meet this cost, especially in view of the increasing cost of living. Why is this suggestion so revolutionary? The Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) made a speech yesterday in Vancouver, which was reported in