

the unfairness of such a decision or those Canadians who seek the optometrists' services and for the optometrists themselves.

The C.O.A. will make new representations to the federal government to reinforce previous representations. Provincial associations should endeavour to have their respective provincial governments specify what their position is on the matter.

At this point I should like to give just one more example of the letters received asking that the act be amended by the minister. On October 14, 1966, I received a letter from an optometrist in my district of Roberval. Here is a summary of that letter sent by Mr. L. G. Deschênes, optometrist in Dolbeau.

Dear Sir:

I gave you at my office last year a brief concerning the inclusion of services given by optometrists in the medicare bill.

Since we do not seem to get anywhere in spite of all the representations of our federal and provincial organizations, in view of the strong opposition in the high circles of organized medicine, I take the liberty once again to ask you to take part in the present debate so that our services to the people will be included as are those of the paramedical professions.

If that is not done, it will be a great injustice against us and those who come to us; in other words, for our riding it will mean that the Canadian government will pay the cost of the examination by the optician at the hospital and will not pay anything for those who will come to see us.

I am also including some literature to that effect—

And he sends me newspaper clippings. This is similar to all the other letters; it gives an idea of the letters we receive from every optometrist. The minister must have received some from the members, and I am sure that he will recall having stated that the government was studying the possibility of including services given by the optometrists.

Therefore, we hope that his consideration will be translated into an amendment to Bill No. C-227.

• (5:50 p.m.)

[English]

#### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO  
BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. McCleave), National Defence—inquiry as to salary scale of naval lieutenants; the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette),

#### Medicare

Transportation—installation of signal lights at all railway crossings; the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell), Public Service—representations respecting relief for red circled employees.

#### HEALTH AND WELFARE

##### MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of 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, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Rynard.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to say a few words on the amendment before the house. Before doing so, however, I should like to express what I am sure is the appreciation of all members in the house of the fact that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) and his parliamentary secretary have been present throughout this debate. We have appreciated their presence and their attention to the speeches which have been delivered in the last few days. In this debate the speeches have been of a very high calibre. I am sure the minister and his assistant on reflection and on a re-reading of the speeches will find that many of the points which have been made should be taken to heart. As a result of this they might even go so far as to postpone the implementation of this bill, or at least make several important changes.

For purposes of clarity I will divide my speech into four headings. First, why are we taking the valuable time of the house now? Second, keep out of medicare—it is none of our business. Third, the country is not prepared at this point for medicare and, fourth, it is discriminatory and it is compulsory. First, why are we taking the time of the house now to pass this piece of legislation which we are told will not come into force for at least two years, on July 1, 1968?

I think the minister might well refer to the confession which so often is read by those of all religious faiths; indeed, he might even suggest that it be read or said at the commencement of every cabinet meeting. It goes something like this: We have left undone those things which we ought to have done and we have done those things which we