

Medicare

medical care plan exists, as in Alberta and British Columbia, 83 per cent of the people are covered. The purpose of the scheme introduced by the federal government must be, it seems to me, to insure the entire population and not merely 70, 80, 90 or 95 per cent. I would like the minister to tell us why 10 per cent of the people are set aside when the plan is initiated in a province and why is a 5 per cent increase required after three years? Then, it would perhaps be advisable to know the exact reason for such provisions. In my opinion, it is a kind of discrimination against those who are prevented from enjoying the benefits of a medical care plan.

[English]

Amendment (Mr. Forrestall) negatived: Yeas, 18; nays, 39.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): I declare the amendment lost. Does this terminate the discussion of paragraph (c)?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Chairman, I move—

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, you did say, did you not, that paragraph (c) is carried?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): I did not say that.

Mr. Lewis: I thought I heard you say it.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): No. That was wishful thinking on the hon. member's part.

Mr. Cadieux (Terrebonne): Mr. Chairman, I move:

That clause 4 of Bill C-227 be amended by substituting the expression "contribution commencement day" for the expression "1st day of July, 1967" where it appears in paragraph (c) of subclause (1) thereof.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): Is the committee ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Amendment Mr. Cadieux, (Terrebonne) agreed to: Yeas, 32; nays, 30.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): I declare the amendment carried.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, we would have preferred to see the amendment to paragraph (c) moved by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Forrestall) carried. But as it was

not carried I should like to move the following amendment to paragraph (c):

To amend clause 4 (1) (c) to read "80 per cent" for "90 per cent" in the phrase "not less than 90 per cent of the total number", and to strike out all the words following the word "province" in the fourth line.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): Is the committee ready for the question?

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, we have had assurances from the minister that the bill will interfere to the smallest extent with the provincial health schemes now operating. It seems to me that one way to integrate this plan with the provincial plans with the smallest amount of interference and interruption would be to carry this amendment.

• (4:30 p.m.)

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard): Is the committee ready for the question?

Amendment (Mr. Johnston) negatived: Yeas, 15; nays, 40.

Paragraph (c) agreed to.

Paragraph (d) agreed to.

On subclause 2—*Responsibilities of provincial authority in relation to administration.*

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, subclause 2 deals with the carriers. Since we have already had a debate on this issue it is not necessary for me to make an extensive speech at this time. We think that the latitude set out in paragraph (a) of subclause 1 is quite wide enough. We do not like the additional latitude contained in subclause 2 because we think that it is under subclause 2 that private commercial insurance companies can be introduced. I would therefore like to move the following amendment:

That clause 4 of Bill C-227 be amended by deleting therefrom subclause 2.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a brief word on this subclause. This subclause makes it possible for a provincial government to designate an agency or agencies in connection with a medical plan to be entrusted with the payment and receipt of accounts. In other words, it makes it possible for a provincial authority to designate a commercial insurance carrier or a co-operative for limited purposes with respect to the operation of a provincial medicare plan. The functions which would not be acceptable would be the assessment of the accounts and the determination of the amount to be paid with respect to these accounts. This responsibility will be carried out by the provincial