

*Medicare*

of National Health and Welfare, it must remain for that great quarterback, the Prime Minister, to come in and get all his team pointed in the same direction, and going downhill—not downhill, Mr. Speaker—at approximately the same speed.

I support the amendment of the hon. member for Simcoe East.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Paul Racine (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, one thing astonishes me very much in the amendment moved by the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard) to Bill No. C-227 on medicare insurance. First of all, it says that the bill does not provide adequately for medical research or the training of doctors and auxiliary personnel in large enough numbers.

Now, the hon. member who spoke before me sympathized with both the minister, because his bill is postponed, and the member who moved the amendment. If it is true that we are not medically ready in Canada, that we do not have enough doctors, implementation of this bill should not be postponed till 1968, but rather till 1975. As far as I know, doctors are not trained in one or two years. I think that medical studies take much longer. Thus, on the one hand, the government is blamed for postponing the implementation of that bill and, on the other hand, an amendment is moved which says in part that Canada is not ready at the present time to adopt that legislation.

Moreover, the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) said a few minutes ago that the health field comes under the provincial government. I have no intention of getting into constitutional matters but there is one thing I would like to say. It is always interesting to hear experts on constitutional matters. Besides, in the last few years we have been hearing a lot about that on television and we get the impression that the constitutional aspect becomes the main problem for the citizens of the province of Quebec. I have no doubt that this problem is very important. But other problems are just as important. I am wondering if a federal member is not as concerned about the needs and problems of his electors as the provincial member for the same riding.

Mr. Speaker, in the last election we proposed to the people the same medicare plan which is submitted to the house and it might be one of the main reasons why we

[*Mr. McCleave.*]

secured the confidence of the electorate in several ridings.

In our midst, several people advocated in the past that family allowances be increased and we know—it is a mathematical solution—that normally a large family is more liable to need the very legislation introduced in the house by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen).

The hon. member for Lapointe asked the Quebec members what they would do. Well, I have made my choice. I do not know if my electors will agree with me but I have chosen to vote in a humane manner, which is what he undoubtedly advocated himself during the election campaign, as did his leader. I have chosen to protect as much as possible through that legislation the citizens of my riding and I thought that if the medicare legislation was implemented in 1968, the new premier of Quebec, who asked for our help here in the house, would have more than enough time to make representations to the federal government.

In the past, we have often met with a refusal from our own provincial government. For instance, one can well remember that many family heads in the province of Quebec were deprived of unemployment insurance payments while we took a negative stand, instead of tackling the problem and discussing it. The situation was the same in the case of grants to universities and grants for the construction of the trans-Canada highway.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the time is gone when a prime minister would say that cure for disease was health. To-day, I do not believe either that cure for disease is the constitution; however, let the experts discuss the matter between now and 1968. As for me, I wish to state that I do not fear at all to fully support the bill which is before the house, and I repeat that most Quebecers wish, I am sure, to see this legislation come into effect as soon as possible and are ready to wait for a possible discussion on the constitution.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, it is not my wish to show sympathy for the Minister of National Health and Welfare in closing, but I wish to state that I for one, was anxious to see this piece of legislation submitted to the house since it was certainly the issue of major interest for our people during the last election campaign. And I hope—this is my wish—that this bill will be passed as soon as possible, in the greatest interests of all Canadians.