

Medicare

I continue to believe that this principle should be seriously considered. A previous amendment to bring paramedical services within the ambit of Bill No. C-227 was ruled out of order. In the opinion of the Chair the amendment by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is a limited or specific part of the proposal put forward by the hon. member for Hamilton South. In other words, the present amendment proposes a restricted form of the larger question.

It is the opinion of the Chair that the present amendment tends to exceed the objects and purposes of the resolution preceding this bill. It tends to extend the services for which provision was originally made. In this connection, may I refer hon. members to May's seventeenth edition, page 798 where, in dealing with the procedure on amendments, the following is found:

The approval or the reduction of the expenditure under consideration, or an increase in the stringency of the terms and conditions of the charge thereby created, are the matters specially entrusted to such a committee, and to these objects amendments are directed.

An amendment proposing to substitute for the resolution an argumentative justification for the refusal of the demand is out of order, as are also amendments proposed with a view to substituting an alternative scheme to that proposed with the royal recommendation.

In accordance with the constitutional principle which reserves the initiative in finance to the Crown, the terms of the message under the sign manual or of the resolution recommended by the Queen for imposing a charge are treated as laying down a maximum charge, which amendments may reduce but may not extend, in respect of the amount of the expenditure, the area of its operation and the objects to which and the conditions under which it applies.

I should like to particularly draw to the attention of the committee the last words of that citation namely "the area of its operation and the objects to which and the conditions under which it applies."

It is for those reasons I regretfully have to rule the proposed amendment out of order.

Perhaps I should point out to the two hon. members who are now standing that I did make a commitment to the hon. member for Villeneuve before I made my ruling.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will no longer deal with the amendment moved by the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), since it has just been ruled out of order.

Mr. Chairman, we will simply come back to Bill No. C-227, which is before us. This

Bill No. C-227, indeed stipulates quite clearly that the federal government shall dictate what the provinces have to do in the field of medical insurance. And I repeat here what I was saying yesterday, namely that first, such a plan must provide complete coverage and extend to all the services performed by medical practitioners.

Mr. Chairman, there are services essential to the health of the Canadian people which cannot be performed by medical practitioners, but which can be performed by those who are familiar with the treatment or people specializing in a particular field, such as chiropractic and podiatry, for instance. I received telegrams from Vancouver this morning. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) has undoubtedly also received similar telegrams.

[English]

Dear Mr. Caouette,

A news release by Robt. Cohen of the Ottawa bureau appeared in the Vancouver *Province* Nov. 24th stating that the federal medicare program may cover a wider range of services including podiatry. The B.C. podiatry association is most interested in placing before you the following observations.

1. The treatment of foot problems will be included in the coverage offered. Podiatrists are legally qualified and licensed to treat these problems.

● (3:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Podiatrists are recognized in British Columbia and Alberta. And now the present federal government does not want to recognize them or would not join with these two provinces, respecting the laws they passed.

Second—

[English]

2. If podiatrists are not covered for these foot conditions by the bill people will simply go to the practitioners whose services are insured. The expense will still be there and the podiatrist will have been discriminated against.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister of National Health and Welfare must agree with this view that medical practitioners who are in no way specialists in this field will be paid for services which they will be unable to perform as completely and adequately as podiatrists can.

Third—

[English]

3. Podiatrists are included on the paramedical staff of the Vancouver General hospital and have been covered by workmen's compensation for the past 15 years. M.S.A. and C.U. and C. the two