

Medicare

his own followers, although they are not very vocal in their support for any of their ministers at any time. They just sit back and never speak for or against. I think the attitude of the Liberal backbencher these days is "I am neither for nor against it". In fact it is the reverse; they themselves will speak privately outside this house concerning what this medicare program needs.

Mr. Pilon: Do not coach him.

An hon. Member: You will find he does not need coaching.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): The Liberal whip seems to have something to add to the debate. I will be only too happy if he says yes. I have invited the Liberal whip and he has accepted the invitation. I will ask him to appeal to his minister to put the medicare program into effect for those who need it. Let us now hear from the Liberal whip, who has invited me to give up the floor.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Macleod.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker; my colleague on this side of the house suggests that the Liberal whip be given an opportunity to speak. We all are anxious to hear what he has to say.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Macleod appeared equally anxious to speak and I have recognized him.

An hon. Member: The whip was saved by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for saying I am anxious to speak. I do not know how true it is. I do, however, have a few matters concerning medicare which are tremendously important to the people in my riding, and which I know are important to the people in western Canada, in particular Alberta. No more important bill has been brought before this house. After reading the bill I am to a large extent disillusioned to note the number of things it does not cover. I refer specifically to the clause which has to do with adequate provision for medical research. The minister should know that there are two basic types of research; one is what you might term basic research and the other is applied research. In the field of medicine you have these two separate fields.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Basic research relates to work done by skilled individuals in biochemistry and other fields, and is essential to the proper treatment of human diseases and to the alleviation of suffering. Once knowledge and hidden methods of treatment are brought to light by these skilled people it must be translated into practical knowledge so that members of the medical profession can apply this knowledge. That is what is called applied research. There are these two fundamental fields of research, basic and applied; yet there is no mention of either in this bill, although research is referred to in the amendment.

Let me now refer to another weakness in this legislation. There is no mention of any method which might be used to encourage young people to train as doctors, dentists and technicians. Aside from the lack of any reference to medical research in this bill, I think it is inadequate because the government has not included any provision for the encouraging or training of young people in the medical profession. We must find more people to train in these basic fields of research and applied medicine before any adequate medicare program can be implemented.

Although the adoption of training programs in universities falls within the jurisdiction of provincial governments, surely this federal government can provide some encouragement. Nothing is being done to help provincial governments train people in the field of medicine, or in the field of dentistry. Nothing is being done in this way by this bill, although there is mention of such a need in the amendment before us.

This bill seeks to take care of the medical expenses of those who are unable to pay, but it will not come into effect until 1968, 18 months from now. For that reason it will not take care of the needs of those people who are unable now to meet their medical bills. There is a great deficiency in this legislation in that it does not make those services available now to at least those groups who are unable to pay for adequate medical care.

In the province of Alberta there is now in effect a medical insurance plan commonly referred to as M.S.I. This plan is going through a gradual evolution, but it is not offering everything I should like to see offered to the citizens of Canada through a universal medical scheme. M.S.I. coverage now costs approximately \$114 for an unassociated individual and his wife. Surely we