

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

fellow-citizens who are as intelligent as anyone among us, who also want to choose and have freedom of choice.

We will listen to all members who will speak on Bill No. C-227; but I want to say, before resuming my seat, that we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste will require a system of health dividend respecting the freedom of choice, in preference to a yoke-type medical assistance as called for by socialists and suggested now by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Speaker, the Cr ditistes have a solution, but the Liberals do not have one, nor the Conservatives, with their meaningless amendment over which we will not linger. We will continue to call for respect of the human person in Canada.

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 Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) Old Age Security—inquiry as to legislation this session; the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) Finance—inquiry as to whether the minister has considered fighting inflation through tax reductions; the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Winkler) Agriculture—inquiry as to price of manufacturing milk.

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: I understand there may be unanimous consent if I propose that we rise between six and eight o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is there unanimous consent to suspend our proceedings until eight o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): The house will resume at eight o'clock tonight.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 6.01 p.m. the sitting of the house was suspended.

[Mr. Caouette.]

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

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 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. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, the bill which we now have before us, Bill C-227, brings to our attention a matter of great importance and one which has been under discussion on many platforms and in many forums across the country for a number of years. While very few if any would question the need for some definite plan under which the best medical care is made available to every person requiring it, there is a wide divergence of opinion concerning the best and most effective way to achieve that objective. I suppose in this regard most people would fall into one of two categories; first, those who support the idea of a government sponsored, government operated, compulsory health insurance program or, on the other hand, a voluntary plan with government assistance for those who cannot afford to provide health insurance for themselves.

The plan presented by the government, while recognizing the principle of provincial autonomy, as indicated on the front of the bill where it says it is an act "to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada towards the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medicare insurance plans," in actual fact dictates the type and the scope of the plan which is acceptable to meet the eligibility conditions.

We appreciate the fact, Mr. Speaker, that certain changes have been or will be made in the bill. As the minister indicated, there will be a measure of flexibility written into the bill, or recognized, but I believe that in spite of this the provinces still are coerced into compliance with requirements which, in their