

of the state medical association. With the cooperation of the dominion government it will take only a short step forward to have state medicine in that province. There is a provincial statute which permits any municipality to engage a doctor. The last report I have is that of 1935, and it shows that there are fifty-four full-time and fifty part-time municipal doctors. Prior to that time I had never known of a municipality that had gone back on the scheme after once engaging a doctor. The scheme must have proven itself in that province. There are twenty union hospitals brought about by the cooperation of two or more municipalities. In this way a hospital is established, and in many cases the hospitalization is free or almost free.

I have often wondered why Ontario was so greatly concerned in the quints, those five little girls at Callander. But we see what medical care and attention has done for them. They are no more valuable than my child or yours; but because the state could commercialize them, it was worth while. I say that the state should commercialize every citizen of this dominion in order that they may render to the state the highest possible service; and it would really in the end be the best possible investment this country ever made, to produce the strongest, most virile race possible on this part of the north American continent. The state has all the means at its disposal; we have the equipment; we have the willingness of the people, and if anything stands in the way, this government should be able to remove any difficulty.

Mr. PIERRE GAUTHIER (Portneuf) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, will you allow an unfortunate victim of the poor acoustics of this chamber to make an effort to have his voice reach you and enunciate a few arguments against the resolution moved by the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor)—which all of us cannot approve—and in favour of personal and private initiative aided, financially at least, by the public authorities.

If the convictions of the hon. member for Fort William are as deep, as strong and as vibrant as his voice, the combined arguments of those who do not share his opinion will hardly suffice to make him change it. I am not accustomed to speaking English in this house, but in the hope of convincing the hon. member by speaking his language, I may be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to continue my remarks in English.

(Text) I know that the motion before the house is important; but I am one of those who do not share the opinion of the hon. member

[Mr. Needham.]

for Fort William (Mr. McIvor), and I know that if a law were enacted by this parliament establishing state medicine throughout Canada, it would not be as welcome in the country as he thinks it would. I admit that in some countries state medicine is in operation. I have read interesting books on the nationalization of the medical art. Perhaps I should use the word "socialization," for in some special regions it would be more correct. In reading those pages, one is inclined to look upon the results obtained there as very encouraging, almost perfect in fact. Clinics for children, mothers, and men, whatever may be the disease, endangering their lives, are under the surveillance of skilful trained nurses and eminent doctors; chemical and physiological researches are carefully carried out, and serums freely and widely applied. But we do not need state medicine to obtain all these good results. Read the history of medicine and you will find that the works of Pasteur, Harvey, Carrel, and the discovery of Doctor Banting, are not to be attributed to state medicine. Their discoveries were due to the personal initiative of these individuals. Their genius could not wait for the establishment of state medicine.

I agree that the government in many instances should be prepared to help private initiative, to render it more effective for the welfare of the people. Nothing can be too costly when the health of the nation is at stake. If there is a capital that should be jealously taken care of, it is the human capital, and in the past this protection was easily obtainable by private initiative, very often helped by the public purse. Nobody can convince me that the old system has failed or that the medical profession has not successfully served the needs of the people, that it has not met the demands of the populations in various countries of the world. Is there not any other means, sir, of helping the people than by nationalizing or socializing everything? Have we come to the pass in this world where the individual is looked upon as incapable of any personal effort, too weak-minded to produce by himself what society expects from him, so interested in the word money as to convert even his own talents, his self-sacrifice and devotion towards others, into nothing but money?

Let it be understood that I am not imputing to the mover of the motion thoughts and motives which are not his. To come to the point, I want to bring to the consideration of the house what is now the general tendency in many parts of the world, and, I am sorry to say, in different parts of our own country, and that is to impose on the state a general