

Medicare

way we respect medical practitioners. We know of competent physicians—

Mr. Isabelle: I rise to a point of order. I would ask my excellent friend, the hon. member for Villeneuve if he means to say podiatrist or paediatrist.

Mr. Caouette: Paediatrist.

Mr. Isabelle: Paediatrist. It is not paediatrist.

Mr. Caouette: Podiatrist.

Mr. Isabelle: Thank you.

Mr. Caouette: Is my friend the member for Gatineau satisfied?

Mr. Isabelle: Very satisfied.

Mr. Caouette: Satisfied? Podiatrist? With respect to the upper part of the body, I would ask the member for Gatineau what he means. A podiatrist is concerned with the care of the feet. Therefore, in his case, what should I say, paediatrist?

Mr. Isabelle: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege. I did not say that, the hon. member did. He wanted to talk about feet, but he was talking of something else.

Mr. Caouette: I am talking about your head, that is approximately the equivalent of—

Mr. Isabelle: That is the equivalent of your feet.

Mr. Caouette: That is approximately the equivalent of the head I wanted to talk about.

Mr. Chairman, it means that the hon. member for Gatineau is aware of the situation and that he himself has received requests, telephone calls from oculists, optometrists, podiatrists in his riding who want to be respected as any other medical practitioner. And the hon. member for Gatineau is a physician, he knows something about medicine. I have been to see him and he treated me very well. If he treated Canada as he treated me, Canada would feel better and would not be where it is now.

Mr. Isabelle: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I have never treated the hon. member for Villeneuve and if I had, he would be in better health.

Mr. Caouette: The hon. member for Villeneuve is in very good health. Thanks to the

hon. member for Gatineau perhaps. I met him before I left for Iran; I came back from Iran thanks to him. However, that does not mean that I will place Canada at the disposal of the hon. member for Gatineau; that is quite clear.

Mr. Isabelle: Mr. Chairman, I should like to keep the record straight. I simply vaccinated the member for Villeneuve so that he would not catch any disease during his trip to Iran.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, you will admit, however, that I had to deal with him and it is a physician in my riding, a good Creditist, who told me: "Go and see the member for Gatineau, Dr. Isabelle, but be careful because he is a bit weak". I was careful, but the hon. member simply gave me an injection to go to Iran; I came back, I am in good health, and in better health than the hon. member for Gatineau, at the present time.

Mr. Chairman, all this to say that, under Bill No. C-227, we want to have a medical cost insurance plan in every province but, as stated in Bill No. C-227, according to the wishes of the provinces.

In Quebec, the provincial authorities have already expressed their wish to legislate as they see fit in the medical field. In some other Canadian provinces, such as Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, medical plans have been in operation for several years. Those governments do not want to be disturbed by the federal authorities with a legislation established in accordance with the terms of Bill No. C-227.

A while ago, we were referring to oculists, optometrists or podiatrists. Mr. Chairman, the services of those people are paid for at the present time. They are recognized on the same basis as medical practitioners in British Columbia and in Alberta, but I believe that they are the only two provinces to recognize them at the present time. Even in Saskatchewan, they are not recognized. In the province of Quebec, of necessity, they are not recognized. They are recognized in Alberta and in British Columbia, but neither of these provinces has requested federal government intervention. In Manitoba, there is no such recognition, nor in Quebec.

Mr. Teillet: There are Conservatives every-