

*Medicare*

in protesting against the unwarranted interference of the federal government in fields which come under provincial jurisdiction, and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that all the Liberal, Conservative, Cr ditiste and independent members from Quebec should indeed unite against the interference of the federal government in a field over which it has no jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, some wonder why the people of Quebec are not satisfied. Well, here is striking proof of the intrusion and unwarranted interference of Ottawa in matters which are no concern of the central government.

And it not only interferes with something that is none of its business, but it also makes Quebec pay for it, so that other provinces will have their own medicare plan.

If the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Duquet) has something to say, let him rise and say it.

**Mr. G rard Duquet (Quebec East):** A yacht bought in Toronto, by an independent leader in the province of Quebec.

**Mr. Gr goire:** Mr. Speaker, see how serious he is. I extremely regret that the province of Quebec should be so badly represented. When I look at the hon. member for Quebec East, I realize how poor, pitiful and small it is for a man, rising for the first time in three months or in a year, to say such a trifling thing. I think the hon. member had better remain seated, because—

**Mr. Duquet:** The hon. member is not often in the house, for he would know that we rise more often than that.

**Mr. Gr goire:** I believe I am here more often than the hon. member for Quebec East. I think the member for Quebec East had better remain seated and keep his mouth shut.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Gr goire:** But the government does not worry too much when it comes to introducing legislation such as this, for even their own members from Quebec, who sit on that side of the house, do not object, do not say a word. The remarks from the hon. member for Quebec East will appear in the record and people will then see the irrelevant remarks that were interjected. Personally, Mr. Speaker, I think I have sufficiently substantiated my argument, with the confirmation given by the Minister of National Health and

Welfare, to the effect that the province of Quebec will be paying during four years for a plan that will bring it nothing.

Mr. Speaker, this is a glaring breach of the Canadian constitution and the first to violate it is still the federal government. In view of the fact that the taxes collected in Quebec are so badly used by the federal government, I hope the Quebec government will stand firm on its request that direct taxation, that is personal and corporate income tax and succession duties, be returned to Quebec. Then a little less of our money would be used to pay the cost of the medicare plans in the other provinces.

**Mr. Choquette:** But what you are advocating now is Mr. Johnson's formula. You are advocating the return of direct taxation to the provinces.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to both hon. members that this is not the right time for a debate between the hon. member for Lotbini re (Mr. Choquette) and the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Gr goire). The hon. member for Lapointe has the floor now and he should continue his speech.

**Mr. Gr goire:** Mr. Speaker, I find that there is nothing wrong with the question and I think that the hon. member can ask it.

**Mr. Choquette:** When he advocates the return of direct taxation, is he asking for the present quota or advocating the return of direct taxation itself to the provinces? In other words, the federal government would no longer have the right to exercise that right which is its own under the constitution, namely to levy an income tax.

**Mr. Gr goire:** Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that my objective goes further than that. I feel that the whole field of direct and indirect taxation should be given back to the province of Quebec.

I support the present premier's request for direct taxation only because half a loaf is better than none and we must not refuse any improvement. I feel that the return to Quebec of all direct taxation is an improvement over the present situation because the present situation allows Ottawa to levy taxes anywhere in Canada but give them back to some provinces but not to others. And that is what is going to happen with regard to bill No. C-227 on medicare. If Quebec collected all its taxes, I would say to the other provinces: If you want centralized medicare, go ahead, those