

*Medicare*

more general practitioners than specialists, more illnesses would be treated at home and there would be less reference to specialists resulting in heavy expenses. Reference to specialists results in many cases in going from one to another.

I support this legislation. I suggest that we in this country must seek to educate the affluent society as to the necessity for such programs as this. Before the election in Quebec in 1966 one enterprising reporter predicted that it might produce many surprises. I should like to read from his article in the *Montreal Gazette* in which he quotes an observer as saying:

People are ungrateful. They would as soon get half what they get now with all the new programs like hospital insurance if they just knew their neighbour was not getting anything at all.

The reporter ends by quoting one man as saying:

I paid my children's way through school and now I am paying for other children. And my taxes are still going up.

I suggest we should go to the people of Canada on a non-partisan basis and say to them: we want these social programs and they are coming whether certain people like them or not. But these programs require money from taxation. In my view no political party should go to the people in future and say it can reduce taxation while increasing services. On the contrary, the people should be told that we intend to increase social benefits and that this will mean increased taxation.

[Translation]

**Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I feel duty bound to make some comments on this motion for the second reading of Bill No. C-227, an Act 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. From the social point of view, this bill is excellent since it offers to help the provinces with regard to health insurance. But from the financial point of view, this bill becomes dangerous for the provinces, like a pill that is candy-coated so the patient will swallow it easily. It is all very well to give, but not to steal for a charitable purpose.

As in the case of all other similar bills tending towards centralization, the federal government continues to progress toward absolute control over the provinces in all fields, while letting them think it is helping

them. By what means is this help given? The government will impose heavier taxes on the population of each province, in accordance with its famous saying: you don't get something for nothing.

On the other hand, the people are not told that under all those famous joint plans, the taxpayer must pay twice for the same service. As a matter of fact, the federal government recognizes that health comes under exclusive provincial jurisdiction. It will therefore be up to the provinces to administer medicare. The provinces will have to decide whether a medicare plan is beneficial and set the date and the terms of its implementation. I am therefore very much surprised when the government starts considering whether the plan will be implemented in two, three or four years.

If it is really up to the provinces to determine the form, the financing and the effective date of the plan, then what is the use of Bill No. C-227?

It would be much more logical, it seems to me, to simply say that the federal government will support the provinces as much as it can, without subjecting the Canadian people to double taxation. Because, after studying Bill No. C-227, I wonder what would happen if the province of Quebec, for instance, decided against implementing its insurance plan before two, three or even four years, or flatly refused to take part in a program laid down by the central government?

• (5:40 p.m.)

Will the federal government levy the same tax that will be imposed on the participating provinces? I feel this would a flagrant injustice towards the Quebec people. We also consider as unfair any action by the central government to impose on its own a further tax in order to hand over part of it to every province.

We maintain that if the central government recognizes the rights of the provinces in the field of health, it should let them make their own decisions and levy their own taxes.

I heard a Liberal member tell us that we have no right to prevent the government from assisting the provinces and that the central government is fully entitled to lay down conditions for that assistance.

Mr. Speaker, such is the policy of the federal Liberal party which would like to interfere in all provincial fields, when it is a known fact that the same ones always pay. What we want in Quebec is the abolishment