

Basilian Fathers at St. Michael's in Toronto, and today he is praying for his Uncle Joe because he knows he needs it, and he is putting in a word for the Leader of the Government in the Senate so that he may see the light.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I congratulate the honourable senator.

Hon. Mr. Sullivan: Without wishing to be designated as being perfunctory, I wish to congratulate the sponsor on his diplomatic manner of introducing this legislation, which I am sure he does not altogether believe in. He has been one of Canada's distinguished Speakers of the House of Commons, and I sincerely trust that when legislation on legal care comes to this house that he will show the same unbounded enthusiasm for it as he did for medicare.

I would like to make clear that I yield to no person in support of humanitarian legislation, for that has been the basis of my whole life's work. I further state that the medical profession wholeheartedly supports medical services for the people because that again is the basis of their life's work.

The sponsor of this bill is a Montrealer and an outstanding member of the legal profession of Canada. I will introduce my remarks with the words of another Montrealer, the internationally famed scientist and one of the greatest, if not the greatest, neuro surgeons living today, Dr. Wilder Penfield. Dr. Penfield has advised Canadians never to make medical services entirely free. He said:

Give support to hospitals and medical education, but never make medical service free. This would only increase total cost to the taxpayer without providing more efficient care, and would deprive the patient of the direct, friendly guidance of a family doctor.

The poor patients have rarely been forgotten by our hospitals, and doctors do care for a significant proportion of patients free of charge. The present situation can be made worse by legislation.

I further quote from Dr. Penfield:

Socialization of British medicine has decreased scientific achievement which would have been more forthcoming if universities had been allowed greater freedom and independence. Dependence of British medical schools on government support and control had an unfortunate effect on academic initiative. Unnecessary

treatments also are more frequent under their socialized system and hospital workers lazier and less productive, causing a great increase in the total cost of hospital care.

"Medicare and the Politicians." Medicare is the word now used to describe, in short, government-controlled health services. It is inconceivable that any government in a free country would compel or even ask the lawyers, engineers, architects, actuaries, accountants, economists, scientists, professors, journalists or the citizenry of its own country to become in effect employees of the state.

It is my considered opinion that doctors are being singled out among the professions. Why? It is the most worthwhile vote-getting scheme that politicians can perpetrate on the general public at large in order to be returned to office for their own gain and security. Bureaucratic meddling has caused many of the complaints against Britain's national health service. We can learn from the experience of other countries.

If there is a lesson from life, it is that none of us can afford to be lookers on, the critics standing on the side lines. It was Lord Acton who said, "Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Some political leaders are unquestionably innocent of any desire—and this is the theme of my whole discourse this afternoon—or intention to limit freedom of expression or profession, but even measures introduced to serve innocent purposes are frequently later perverted to serve evil purposes. Who can tell what future administration itself might twist the law, or colour the law, as once promulgated. Clause 8 of this bill, as described by Senator McCutcheon last evening, vindicates that opinion.

I speak to you as a doctor, and a member of this venerable chamber, not as a member of a political party; as a physician, vitally interested in the individual welfare of each physician and surgeon in this country; as one who has devoted his life to his profession, both in medical scientific research and surgery. What I have to say is in the interests of the people of Canada as a whole, and with the full support of the Canadian Medical Association. There are about 24,000 doctors in Canada, 22,000 of whom are practising doctors, and 2,000 postgraduates, interns and residents. The Canadian Medical Association consists of a membership of about 20,000 doctors, representing 95 per cent of the profession in Canada.