

*Private Bills*

In addition to the universities, there is the college of pharmacists of Quebec which will also issue the certificates required to allow applicants to practise pharmacy. That comes under the education system in the province of Quebec and in each province. Today, you want among other things, to set up this committee which will issue certificates of qualification. This pharmacy examining board of Canada—those are the very words used in the bill.

Pharmacy examining board of Canada.

That board wants to hold examinations in the province of Quebec. I claim that to hold examinations, it must first give courses and then make it compulsory for those who have attended the courses to take examinations; now, this is exactly what our universities are doing at present. It is not at all what the pharmacy examining board of Canada intends to do. Its sole intention is to have people pass examinations. We know, on the other hand, that in the province of Quebec there are rules and regulations which differ from the rules prevailing in other provinces. For instance, in Quebec, people who want to own a drugstore must be druggists. Besides it is not possible in Quebec to just organize a chain of drugstores, as is done for instance with grocery stores, and hire professional druggists to run that chain. In order to own a drugstore, one must be a druggist, according to rules which differ from the rules enforced in other provinces. We find the Quebec rules satisfactory.

There is talk of setting across-the-board examinations which would be the same in all the provinces, however great the differences between these provinces. As written in one of the clauses of the bill—

**The Chairman:** Order. I understand that the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Francis) wishes to ask a question from the member for Lapointe.

[Text]

**Mr. Francis:** Is it not possible in the province of Quebec for a medical doctor to be the owner and operator of a pharmacy?

[Translation]

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that doctors in medicine can own drugstores and even laboratories. This state of affairs stems from understandable circumstances. In some parishes, rather far from the centres, there is nothing which might attract a druggist; besides in some parishes, not enough drugs are sold to justify the presence of both a doctor and a druggist. That is why in the

smaller parishes the physician often combines both fields of endeavour, and will at once exercise his own profession and own a drugstore.

That goes to prove that in the province of Quebec, even if the law is broad enough to allow co-existence, there is a specific understanding of the problems which prevail in various communities and in various districts. This is proof of the understanding shown in the writing of Quebec legislation, and not only in this field but in many others. When cases come up where the situation does not seem to have been well understood in the preparation of certain legislation, our people, be they doctors or pharmacists, broadminded as they are, have accepted those few exceptions.

I have examined this bill a little. There is a section which says among other things—I am going over certain sections of the bill a bit at random—

**An hon. Member:** What number?

**Mr. Gregoire:** It is the one which provides that a certificate of qualification may be issued to someone who has been practising for ten years. At that time, he would be given a certificate of qualification, when we know that, in other provinces, one does not have to be a pharmacist to practise pharmacy. That means that even if someone has not studied that science at all, he is still allowed after ten years, to operate a pharmacy without being a pharmacist. He is given a certificate of qualification as a pharmacist, even though he may never have studied pharmacy.

[Text]

**Mr. Francis:** Could the hon. member name such a province where it is possible for a person who never studied pharmacy to be a pharmacist?

**Mr. Gregoire:** May I ask the hon. member to repeat the question?

**Mr. Francis:** I understood the hon. member to say it is possible in other provinces to own and operate a pharmacy without having studied pharmacy. I would like to know which provinces the hon. member is referring to.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Chairman, it is evident, if all kinds of distinctions are to be made, that with the kind of drugstores we see today, where all medicine sold are patented pills or syrups, it is possible for an individual to sell such medicine behind a counter; but the fact remains that in other provinces, an individual could be the owner of a drugstore without being a pharmacist. An individual could have a drugstore registered in