

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Lambert: The house will determine whether that shall be done.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, that is about the most nonsensical suggestion I have heard from the Prime Minister over a good many years. Let me just draw Your Honour's attention to this fact—

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, may I draw your attention to the fact that it is ten o'clock.

Mr. Nielsen: Not yet.

Mr. Churchill: I thought there was one minute to go.

Mr. Grégoire: Ten o'clock. Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty to bring to the attention of hon. members that in accordance with the provisions of Provisional Standing Order 39A a motion to adjourn the house is deemed to have been made and seconded at this time. Therefore the question is that this house do now adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Provisional Standing Order 39A deemed to have been moved.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—MEDICARE—POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the drama and emotion that surrounds the house at the present time, I hope that the plea I have to make will not fall on deaf ears. Last week I asked the government whether any representations had been put before them to the effect that this country of ours, Canada, was faced with an imminent crisis relating to the shortage of doctors. Your Honour very wisely ruled that because the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare were before us, the question was out of order at that particular time.

● (10:00 p.m.)

The hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard) subsequently asked the government whether in its opinion Canada was faced with an imminent crisis because of a shortage of doctors. The hon. member asked what the government was going to do about it. He documented his case, but at no time to my knowledge during the discussion of his estimates did the Minister of National Health

[Mr. Pearson.]

and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) deal with this pressing problem that is now facing our nation. While the Minister of Industry has jurisdiction over, and reports to the house in relation to research grants to the medical council, I felt that in this instance, because of medicare plans etc., my question should be directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

I believe most sincerely, sir, along with other hon. members such as the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard), that this country is facing an imminent crisis relating to a shortage of doctors. Canada is running out of doctors, and unless immediate action is taken we shall be faced with a real crisis within two years. Already in smaller centres there are no replacements for the old family doctor who passes on. Last year hundreds of qualified applicants were turned down at our medical schools. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that in 1965 these schools turned out approximately the same number of doctors as ten years ago. In 1965 we had 1,000 medical graduates, but 400 of them left the country.

Some time ago, because of dissatisfaction with conditions in their native land as a result of socialized medicine, many doctors were coming to Canada. This situation has now changed. Not only do we lack medical schools but, as the hon. member for Simcoe East so well documented, some of the existing schools recently barely met proper accreditation standards.

Let me point out to you, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and to the Minister of Industry, that even today Canada ranks only twentieth in the world in its ratio of doctors to the total population. Today we have 1,000 teachers in our medical schools. If we want to maintain present standards until 1970, and excluding all considerations relating to medicare, we need 2,000 teachers and more schools. Yet our teachers as well as our doctors continue to move away and emigrate to the United States of America.

Why is this, Mr. Speaker? I do not intend to provide the whole answer tonight, but one major reason lies in the fact that more research is being done in medical schools in the United States. The federal government of the United States is responsible for 90 per cent of the financial support given to research in these medical schools. Last year United States federal assistance in this regard amounted to \$1,300 million, while in the same year Canadian federal assistance to medical