

*Medicare*

stand up and object to the fact that in this bill we are accepting a pig in a poke.

We are not familiar with all the details of this bill and we do not exactly know what we are voting on. We might well be bringing in under this bill the kind of complete medicare which the province of Saskatchewan has brought in, and I hasten to say at this point that in Saskatchewan, which is my native province, a great many people are very happy with the fact that medical care is available to all in that province. However, I am quite sure that the people of Saskatchewan are not unanimous in accepting the compulsory aspects of this bill. I think we have to put first things first, and if I have to decide between socializing medicine and having members of my family go without medical care, I would certainly not argue against providing medicare for every man, woman and child in Canada as long as that was the choice of the province involved.

We have in Canada the great advantage of having 10 areas of development and experimentation and 10 areas of investigation into the future of medicine. We do not want a complete unity of expression either in medicine or in anything else in this country. Neither do we want a homogeneous education in our universities. We are proud of the differences existing among our Canadian universities, and we realize that only by keeping our minds open to different approaches can democracy broaden. It was Tennyson who expressed himself with the words "where freedom slowly broadens down from precedent to precedent". It was our ancestors, and our forebears in politics such as Sir John A. Macdonald and Étienne Cartier, who handed down the principle that legislation respecting medicine should be the prerogative of the provinces.

No matter how good are our intentions, we should not use a financial stick to weaken our constitution in any way. Of course there is an element of compulsion in anything we do in Canada which depends on taxation but I believe emphatically that we should not use as a lever the right to tax, which the provinces have handed over to the Dominion for the sake of efficiency and fairness. This principle of spreading the tax burden among the provinces might be called by some a socialist approach. The provinces of Canada have accepted the fact that those who have more should share with those who have less, but in accepting this principle they did not intend to use it as a lever to force the ideas of one

province on another, or even to force the will of the Dominion on the provinces in a sphere which clearly belongs to the provinces under the British North America Act.

There is a tendency today in our thinking, and certainly in our writing, to confuse socialism with social justice. I read last night an article written by a great German doctor, who, when he was asked whether Germany would ever revert to Hitler's type of fascism, said that because the people in Germany have already brought in so much social justice he did not think fascism would ever again find a foothold in that country.

There is a great deal of social justice in Canada today. I think it is well known too, that there is just as much social justice available to the people of Alberta under the Social Credit government, which is avowedly Conservative in its general approach, as there is in the great province of Saskatchewan where the socialist experiment has outstripped any efforts in this direction in the other provinces of our great Dominion.

We are not supporting communism, nor are we in support of extreme capitalism when we demand freedom of opinion. We are not deserting the position of the middle of the road, which has been the historic position of the great Liberal party. When I spoke on the amendment to the bill I reminded the Liberal party that no less a person than the great Mackenzie King himself said that before you put in sweeping reforms of any kind in Canada the fullest consultation should take place.

I have not attended any of the provincial conferences and I do not know how far this matter has been discussed with the premiers. Nevertheless from what I have read and heard I believe that at least three of the provinces are not going to accept this bill. Therefore to use the argument that if we are to have universality we must have compulsion is without foundation. This bill will not be universal and will not operate in all the provinces, unless a consensus in its favour is obtained. Nearly all the provinces of Canada today have strong premiers and strong provincial governments. They do not have to knuckle down to the wishes of the federal government, and I certainly do not think they should have to knuckle down to a government which, according to the latest Gallup poll, has only some 30 odd per cent of public opinion behind it.