

Medicare

is not sufficient personnel. We do not have the money to obtain the personnel nor do we have the money to keep them there—and I will go into that a little later. We do not have the facilities. There is a serious deterioration in the quality of care. The government wants us to train more doctors, but as a result of lack of funds and a lack of proper planning we are in no position to train them.

I have heard hon. members say that we need more general practitioners. Yes, we do; we set up this medical school in Saskatchewan for this purpose; but as a result of lack of facilities and many other things in that province, what do we have? We have a situation where, while formerly 46 per cent of our graduates remained in our province, now the figure is well below 25 per cent. It has been going down in the last few years. What has this government proposed? I am sorry to see that neither the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen) nor his parliamentary secretary are here. I think these are the two persons who should be learning what is happening.

Mr. Pennell: May I say, Mr. Speaker, that I have a watching brief for the minister and I am following very carefully the interesting remarks of the hon. member.

Mr. Brand: I am glad to hear this, and I am sure that the minister's discussions with the Minister of National Health and Welfare will be of benefit to that minister. I am optimistic. What about research. We do not have sufficient research facilities in Saskatchewan. I heard the Minister of National Health and Welfare make statements about the health resources fund and these other funds which will provide money for research. I have somewhere placed on the record—and I could read it into the record again if it is so desired—the discrepancies between what this government proposes and what has been proposed by the Wood Gundy report, the Canadian Association of Medical Colleges and the Canadian Association of Clinical Investigators. It has been pointed out that we need much more than has been provided so far. Because in Saskatchewan—and this is true also all across Canada—we have this lack of research and we cannot get the clinical teachers we need. I am going to go into that in a little more detail in a moment.

May I make a proposal which I hope will be carried to the minister. I am sure, according to some of his remarks, that he would have no objection to this. I should like to see

[Mr. Brand.]

made available now this \$14 million which our province needs. We need it to round out our medical plan. I should like to see a medical research fund set up in our province. I should like to see \$7 million or \$5 million of the \$14 million put into this fund to provide a ready source of immediate funds for research, so that we could attract doctors back into our province, those who have gone to the United States. Seven million dollars is a lot of money, but it is what we need. I may point out that only 12 million is to be paid out by the medical research council for the whole of Canada; but I would like to see \$7 million brought into Saskatchewan so that we will have an opportunity to attract proper teachers to our medical school. This would enable them to obtain the kind of assistance which is needed in research. Just as it is needed in every other part of Canada, we need it now, and not in 1968.

While I am on the subject of 1968, I wonder just what the date really will be when the government will bring this in. There has been enough said on this subject. They have promised this and promised that. What guarantee do we have that this promise will be kept, any better than the others we have heard before. I think we need it now. I see that the minister now is in his seat and has with him his legal advisor. Perhaps he will agree that he has said that so long as the provinces comply with the four criteria he has laid down we can take the money for medical care and use it as we see fit, and that none can be taken back. We do comply with this in Saskatchewan. I take it that the minister now has the impression I am in favour of the principle of prepaid medical care.

As soon as this bill is in effect Saskatchewan will be in a most fortunate position, because we have the \$7 million to put in the research fund and the other \$7 million we hope to use to fill in the other gaps in respect of the supply of equipment for hospitals, to take care of the operating costs and the costs of research at the University Hospital and other hospitals, and also to take care of premiums for those who still, despite the widespread nature of the plan, have a great deal of difficulty in paying the premium in Saskatchewan.

This is all right for Saskatchewan. We are going to be in a very fortunate position. There is a proviso, of course—as to whether the present premier will see the light; and he has not yet done much about research or