

Medicare

Mr. Brand: I will second that motion, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the hon. gentleman would agree to stand paragraph (d) for a short period of time, let us say an hour or two, and then come back to it at eight o'clock.

Mr. Douglas: After dinner.

Mr. Rapp: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest that we adjourn for dinner between the hours of six and eight. This would give the minister and members an opportunity to consider the amendment.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, the government house leader is now in attendance. Perhaps he will be able to give some direction as to what is proposed in respect of the dinner adjournment. Regardless of what we do in this respect, I suggest it would be a good idea to stand this paragraph for a couple of hours and return to it tonight. At that point we could have a ruling and then, depending upon the nature of the ruling, we could proceed from there. I have no objection to standing it for a couple of hours, if that is agreeable.

Mr. Fulton: I do not wish to complicate this matter or attach conditions, but I think we should stand it for a definite period of time. I do not think that time should be influenced one way or another by our decision as to whether we adjourn for dinner. I am prepared to stand the paragraph for two hours or, alternatively, I will put my motion that we stand the paragraph and go on to other paragraphs. If it appears appropriate to return to paragraph (d) at any later time, I see no reason why we cannot do that.

Mr. MacEachen: I see no objection to standing the paragraph and then returning to it in two hours, at which time a decision can be rendered. I suggest we do so independently of what we decide about a dinner adjournment.

Mr. Fulton: That is agreeable, and I would modify my motion accordingly.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the minister's experience, but it seems to me that if we set a definite time it will mean that at eight o'clock, in the middle of somebody's remarks which could be concluded in two minutes, we would be obliged to come back to this question. I ask the minister through you, Mr. Chairman, whether it would not be better to leave the situation as the hon. member for Kamloops suggested. We could stand this

[Mr. Fulton.]

clause and if at any point there is a consensus of the committee, or a common sense situation which indicates that we should return to it, we can do so. I do not have the minister's experience, but as chairman of other meetings I have always been worried about having to go back to something at a specific time no matter what happened to be before the assembly at that moment.

• (6:00 p.m.)

Mr. McIlraith: That is the best way.

Mr. MacEachen: I think that is a reasonable position, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that if at eight o'clock an hon. member is making a speech, or we are engaged in something else, we could agree as to the time remaining.

Mr. Fulton: I just want to be clear on this, Mr. Chairman, because the minister mentioned eight o'clock. Are we agreed that the two-hour period is irrespective of any dinner adjournment?

Mr. McIlraith: The minister said eight o'clock.

Mr. Fulton: My understanding is that the debating portion, the time within which we will discuss this paragraph in debate, is adjourned for two hours. If we adjourn for one hour or one and a half hours for dinner, that two-hour period starts to run when we reconvene; that is my understanding.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, I think that if there is a motion that this clause stand, there should be no time limit; it stands until the committee gets back to it. Meanwhile, I would suggest, if it is agreeable, that we recess for dinner until eight o'clock.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether we could clear up this point first, so that we are not met with a loss of time later in the evening. I think we should understand just what the situation is. However it is decided, I should like what is going to happen to the clause to be clarified.

Mr. Fulton: We go on with the next clause.

Mr. McIlraith: Is it for two hours, or not?

Mr. Fulton: Would it not be better to adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for York South and our house leader, that we stand the clause by agreement now and then adjourn for dinner?

Mr. Starr: Another paragraph has been allowed to stand.