

*Medicare*

the War Veterans Allowance Board pays on your behalf. These treatments are available at no additional expense to the government of Canada. Your doctor can prescribe and arrange a course of physiotherapy treatment for you if he considers that this treatment would be of benefit to you.

N. G. Dorland, for  
Senior Treatment Medical Officer

This applies not only to chiropractors but also to the other practitioners whom we mentioned today. I think we are in an impossible position. The minister should, therefore, take another look at some of the statements he has been making, at the position which he has been assuming, and accept the recommendations which have been made.

I should like now to deal with the matter of dental care. Here again, the services rendered by a dentist are not covered, and yet the same services provided by a medical doctor are covered. I cannot see any sense in this provision and, as I said before, it seems to be a highly discriminatory provision which should be corrected. The same statement applies to others such as practitioners in the naturopathic field, in optometry, psychology and so on.

I will suggest once again that the minister should give serious consideration to the recommendations which have been made from this side of the house. I suppose they would also be made by hon. members on the other side if they were not sitting there. I trust he will recognize and acknowledge the validity of the arguments, and will make some changes which will more adequately fit the realities of the situation.

● (5:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, the present debate on Bill No. C-227 and especially on the four or five amendments which were moved concerning subparagraph (d) will be considered as one of the most constructive debates of this parliament, because no superficial or partisan arguments have been made, and I listened to nearly everything which has been said until now.

I think that all our colleagues, even those of the opposition, should be commended for the seriousness they showed during the study of this bill and the quality of the arguments they made to the minister in order to improve his bill.

I was especially impressed to see that nobody in the opposition was opposed to the bill. On the contrary, there was a sort of emulation in trying to improve it. I believe that among all the amendments moved until

[Mr. Patterson.]

now, I would support immediately the one moved by the leader of the New Democratic Party, the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), because, in my opinion, it is a comprehensive amendment which opens the door to all sorts of other amendments and which complies also with all the prescriptions and the restrictions of parliamentary procedure. I would like to support the hon. member and I am under the impression that even though I am not in his confidence, the minister will approve it. It is correct to say, Mr. Chairman, that all kinds of excellent suggestions have been expressed here to improve the bill.

Among the things we learned during the debate, there is, for instance, the lesson on medical terminology given to us last night by the member for Gatineau (Mr. Isabelle) when he made an intervention while the member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) was speaking. We also learned from him that he had given the member for Villeneuve an injection which allowed him to come back from Lebanon, something which annoyed a number of his antagonists, in no worse condition than he was when he went there, and that also reassured his colleagues.

We learned among other things that there was a limit to the talent of the hon. member for Gatineau, because he could not give the member for Villeneuve an injection to cure him from his verbosity. And this is certainly a disease, because he made four or five speeches at least last night on this medical care scheme.

Now, to speak seriously, Mr. Chairman, I believe that, in considering that bill, one is bound to come to a principle governing nearly any great legislation and say to oneself that when perfection is not possible, one must be satisfied with a lesser evil.

It struck me to hear the minister tell us—we were able to check his remarks—that he had consulted the provinces, that he had even wanted, at a certain time, to submit his bill to them and was prevented from doing so by circumstances, but he is still determined to do his utmost to bring the provinces together and discuss with them the various provisions of this bill in anticipation of future amendments.

This shows that the minister is favourably disposed, as all members of the house have surely noted, and that, even though the bill is not perfect, of course—I feel like most members of the opposition, that a great number of minor services which were left