

will ensure that every Canadian will have adequate hospital and medical services?

Mr. Drew: I voted for it.

Mr. Herridge: The hon. member was not present.

Mr. Drew: No, I was not here. I thought that was a reference to an earlier debate. If it was during the debate on the speech from the throne, I was not here, as the hon. member knows, for reasons connected with my own health.

Mr. Martin: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the committee would accord me a few minutes just to make a brief comment on this important subject, particularly in view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has made a statement which I know has interested hon. members greatly.

Mr. Fulton: Would the minister regard it as a discourtesy if we suggested that we have to sit tonight anyway, and we might as well call it six o'clock now?

Mr. Martin: I would not regard it as a discourtesy.

Mr. Fulton: Then we would prefer to call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Trainor: I wish to make only a few observations on this particular item, Mr. Chairman, largely arising out of some remarks made by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar. The hon. gentleman saw fit to quote at some considerable length the remarks of British doctors concerning the British health system during the meeting in Toronto. I suggest it would have been more fitting if he had concentrated on what Canadian doctors said at the same meeting in discussing Canadian health problems, because after all the British doctors are not going to be responsible for the operation of any health program in Canada.

Mr. Barnett: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Trainor: Yes.

Mr. Barnett: Would he not agree that the British doctors are apt to know a great deal more about the actual working of the health plan to which the hon. member was referring in his speech than are the Canadian doctors at the present time?

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Mr. Trainor: No, I do not agree at all. I think Canadian doctors know the situation in Canada and the programs relating to the health of the people of Canada. They are in a much better position to judge what is suitable for Canada than are the British doctors.

The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar made some remarks in his speech calling attention to certain European health plans. The committee might have been left with the impression that these plans supported his contention that his socialistic plan of attack on this matter was rational. The hon. member referred particularly to Switzerland and the minister nodded his head and said, of course, Switzerland was a federal state. One could not blame him for that, but the minister must know quite well that Switzerland is one of the bastions of voluntary health efforts in Europe. Switzerland does not by any means bear out the contention of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar. At the same time the hon. member for Kootenay West mentioned the Swedish experiment, and I suggest it is very much an experiment. Sweden is one of the last countries in Europe to give up the voluntary health system. It remains to be seen whether or not the Swedes will be satisfied with what they have bought. It is by no means certain, so Sweden is not a country to instance in support of socialistic health plans.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wish to present another angle to this question of providing health services for the Canadian public. So far in this debate the committee might have gathered that there was only one way to provide health service in Canada and that was by the socialistic, compulsory plan of health insurance—not health insurance, because it is anything but that. The socialists are advocating the provision of health service to every person in Canada, supposedly without cost to the individual who receives the service. It must be a very gullible or very ignorant person who would buy that sort of statement, because it will have to be paid for.

Mr. Nicholson: You buy your education that way.

Mr. Trainor: I will tell you how you buy it; listen for a moment. You will buy it in one way or another. If you are an income taxpayer, you buy it by increased income taxes. If you are not an income taxpayer you will buy it through an increased cost of living, because there will be an attempt made to load the cost on the corporations and the corporations will certainly pass on that cost. The ordinary individual, therefore, will pay for it in his increased cost of living. Don't think you will get anything for nothing.