

Medicare

is paying the same amount now for a hospital bed that it paid in 1958. Does this indicate the government is treating the provinces and the municipalities properly? Today the municipalities are carrying 60 per cent of the load in respect of building hospitals. They do not have the money to do this, because their debt is piling up faster than it is at any other level of government. Yet, government members sit here and smugly talk about medicare, but do not make provision for the things that are on the statute books. Why in the world has this government not pulled up its socks? Why has it not paid the amount that it should be paying? Today, the government is paying 14 per cent of the cost to provide the room for the bed which the patient occupies. This is the reason we are short of beds today. We do not have enough money to provide them.

Mr. Winkler: It should be double.

Mr. Rynard: The action of the government is similar to that of the person who cleans the outside of the tub and leaves the inside dirty. This is not the way to operate. I should like to dwell for a moment on the recommendations of the Hall commission report.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. We have listened to the hon. gentleman for ten minutes—

Mr. Rynard: I would think that you could stand another ten minutes. It might do you some good.

Mr. MacEachen: I think it would be fair to say that the comments of the hon. gentleman really are a resumption of the comments made at the resolution stage and second reading; they are not truly related to clause 2. In fact, none of the comments made thus far by the hon. gentleman have been related to any of the paragraphs in clause 2. This is not in accord with the understanding we reached. It is not in accord with the rules, and I would ask that the Chair bring us back to the clause which we are discussing.

The Deputy Chairman: May I direct the attention of hon. members to standing order 59 (2) which reads as follows:

(2) Speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Chairman, I will deal with the manpower problem, since the minister does not like to hear about the obligations of the federal government which have not been kept and the funds they do not provide for

this resource fund. Apparently the minister does not like to hear about this. How in the name of common sense are we going to turn out doctors if we do not have the facilities? A delegation from the Canadian Medical Association came to Ottawa. Included in this association are the deans of the medical colleges, the professors, the doctors, and the interns from across Canada. This association is their representative body.

● (4:50 p.m.)

This body advised the minister that these people who cannot afford to pay should be covered immediately. I suppose the minister will remind me of the Canada Assistance Plan, but let me inform him that I checked up on this and found that it was not even available in Ontario. This is just a little bit more of what somebody has referred to as window dressing.

Let me now refer to manpower. I am sure the minister and I do not disagree about the desirability of having the best medical care possible for everyone in Canada, regardless of the individual's ability to pay. That is a fundamental need, and one which I have advocated for years. I do not want the minister to take steps which will ruin this plan or cause great difficulty in the medical profession. Did the minister not listen to the representatives of the medical profession who came here and said that the people who could not afford to pay should be covered immediately.

Let me remind the minister of the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre which appear at page 8620 of *Hansard*. That hon. member made a plea on behalf of those people the medical profession said should be covered immediately. The minister suggested they would not be covered for a year and a half because our economic situation is not as good as it might be. He says today that we cannot afford to cover those people immediately, but what will he say a year and a half from now? Will those people remain uncovered by insurance at that time? As a result of the deliberations of these medical people, they have come to certain conclusions. Does the minister suggest that they are all talking through their hats and are wrong? I am sure a great many people will question the wisdom of a government that refuses to listen to the suggestions of such a learned body. He might just as well suggest that lawyers should not draw up legal documents because they likely are wrong and that a layman could do better. That is apparently the position he is taking.