

the amendment. I was surprised the other day—as a matter of fact it was on October 13—when the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) said, as reported at page 8620 of *Hansard*:

Second, this is a sad day because the action of the government in proposing the postponement of medicare for a year is a discrimination against the needs of the people in this country, particularly their medical needs, and I refer particularly to those people who cannot afford the medical care they require.

The needs of these people are taken care of by those provinces which have medicare. Those who cannot afford medical care should be looked after by the provinces. We say that, rather than wait for two years to implement this legislation, these people should be provided for immediately. I am sure hon. members of the New Democratic Party will not find any embarrassment whatever in voting for an amendment such as we have before us now.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I must conclude, and I can think of no better way of doing so than by putting on the record these few lines which are attributed to Abraham Lincoln. We should take them as representing the viewpoint of this house for a good many years to come.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer . . .

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you can earn.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

So, I would give this warning to hon. members of this house, and to others: Let us beware of being sheep.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, we are now studying a motion for second reading of a bill providing for the payment of the contribution by the federal government towards the cost of insured medical services.

Mr. Speaker, under the B.N.A. Act the field of health falls under provincial jurisdiction. Today, the federal government seems to want to meddle with another matter which is a provincial responsibility. It is very easy for it to do so, since the federal government levies the greater portion of taxes in Canada. It is

richer and, therefore, can afford to do more. As it might were right.

Mr. Speaker, if nine provinces in Canada prefer to have a medicare program governed, administered and paid for by the federal government, I for one will not object to their wishes. If they want a federal plan well, let them have it and let Ottawa find a way to implement a federal medicare plan for the nine other provinces. But Quebec does not seem to want to participate in this federal medicare plan, and it has the right to refuse. The present Quebec premier and the minister of health have both stated that they would not submit to the terms of the proposed plan as it now stands. On another occasion, the premier of Quebec said that Quebec would have its own medicare plan.

And I will be the first to support him in this regard, if he really wants Quebec to develop its own medicare plan, since this responsibility lies with Quebec and not Ottawa. Besides, on page 8, clause 8 of the bill to come before the house, we read the following:

At least six months before the 31st day of March, 1972, the government of Canada shall review the provisions of this act respecting the amount and manner of payment of the contributions payable by Canada pursuant to section 3 with a view to formulating proposals for any changes therein that appear then to be necessary or desirable with respect to the amount and manner of payment, whether by the transfer or allocation of specified tax revenues by Canada and the making of equalization payments and other fiscal adjustments by Canada in lieu of the contributions that would otherwise be payable pursuant to section 3 or in any other manner, of the contributions to be paid by Canada pursuant to this act for years commencing after that day.

Mr. Speaker, this means that, if a provincial government refuses to take part in the federal medicare plan or wishes to develop its own medicare plan, ignoring the conditions stipulated in Bill No. C-227, then, in these circumstances this province or these provinces must pay the same taxes as other Canadian provinces, but they do not in any way benefit from the advantages of the federal medicare plan, and if these provinces have their own medicare plan, they are forced into levying a second tax in order to develop their own medicare plan.

This was also the case with the hospitalization insurance bill which was passed here, in the house, in 1957, if I remember right. The province of Quebec did not participate in the hospital insurance plan until 1961. During four years, therefore, the Quebec people,