

*Medicare*

**Mr. Grégoire:** The member for Bonaventure (Mr. Béchard).

**An hon. Member:** Laval.

**An hon. Member:** Gatineau.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Well then, Mr. Speaker, these members are present. They have identified themselves. Quebec will know that they were here and that they did not take the floor when they should have. Mr. Speaker, I urge these Quebec members—I see another Quebec member coming in, the member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine, and Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Sauvé), who could also speak on behalf of the province of Quebec and demand provision for fiscal compensation.

I remember when he was in opposition, he would champion the cause of the rights of Quebec. Well, it is time for him to prove it tonight, and the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development has the opportunity to do so. Let him take the floor; let one of the two rise and say they will support the amendment and ask all their colleagues from the other provinces to support this amendment which, after all, does not seek to kill the bill under consideration but to improve it by providing fiscal compensation.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is everyone's duty to voice their opinion, to proclaim their support for the rights of the province of Quebec, and one of these is the right of the province of Quebec in the field of health. They must try and make their colleagues realize this and I urge hon. members of the house, and particularly the two ministers to do so.

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, since I have already spoken on this bill, I shall be brief. I only rise to give the opinion of our group regarding the amendment moved tonight by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard).

Mr. Speaker, as you may have realized, we have voted against the Conservative amendment and if no changes are made in this bill, if this amendment is turned down by a majority vote, we shall be forced to vote against the principle of the bill because as I have said in my first speech and as other speakers have indicated, this bill is contrary to the rights of the province of Quebec and we may not, we cannot as French Canadians, accept something contrary to the constitution,

something which undermines the powers, the rights of our province to the benefit of a central government which day after day, hour after hour, attempts to take over the rights of the provinces.

Mr. Speaker, we read in this bill:

—an act to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada toward the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plan.

Mr. Speaker, it sounds wonderful, quite enticing in fact; and as I said the other day, it seems a little like a pill given to a patient—a pill which is gilded to make it less repulsive. I assure you that the bill as it is now is repulsive to the province of Quebec.

They say that they want to help the provinces without consulting them. Mr. Speaker, have the provinces been consulted? Not at all. Do they know what the provinces think? We know by the newspapers. Most provinces objected to the present form of the bill; even the doctors have objected. But this is not taken into consideration; they forge ahead as if nothing happened.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if we want to know something about Quebec views—since I speak here on behalf of my fellow citizens of Quebec—we need only to open any newspaper to soon realize that Quebec wants at any price to have its own medicare plan, and to control it one hundred per cent. That is the reason why you see headlines as the one in *L'Action* of October 17, for instance, which quoted the very words of the Quebec premier—we have one, at last, who dares to stand up—who simply said:

Ottawa will not impose on us.

Mr. Speaker, I think that should give food for thought to the minister of national health (Mr. MacEachen). I believe that should give food for thought to all the ministers, and especially to the Liberal members from the province of Quebec.

I wonder what excuse they will give their constituents when they will try to explain their vote on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I said that the government did not consult the provinces, and I think it would still be time—as the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) said a moment ago—to adjourn this debate to enable the government to consult a Quebec delegation which will be here next week, to attend the federal-provincial conference, and try to agree on a formula which will provide our