

*Medicare*

**Mr. Faulkner:** Mr. Speaker, the point I wish to assert is that I came into this house when I was advised that the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings was going to speak, because I was sure he was going to make a useful contribution. I did not come here simply to josh and interfere, as he has alleged.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I am often amazed at the divine powers that are sometimes possessed by hon. members on the opposite of the house. If the hon. member for Peterborough knew that I was going to take part in the debate tonight he must possess some occult powers, because I had intended to speak tomorrow. Let me say that I did not yield the floor, but simply sat down as a matter of courtesy to give the hon. member an opportunity of presenting his question of privilege, which he has done now in a somewhat agitated way.

• (8:40 p.m.)

I spoke with some conviction, perhaps because I do not always agree with the general attitude adopted by members on this side of the house. One thing that made me chuckle this week end was an article which appeared in a good old Tory Toronto newspaper, and before I refer to it let me ask how many members there are on this side of the house who are from good old Tory Toronto. This paper, in recounting events during a recent convention, suggested that those people were not playing politics, but that they were going for ideas. I have not seen any hon. members on this side of the house or on the opposite side going against the current, but I still think that it is necessary for some members to do so from time to time. That is why I was willing to give up my position to the hon. member for Peterborough, to allow him to hold forth his views in public—which some people suggest he may have already expressed in private—or at some meeting, some place, somewhere. However, since he does not want to speak now, he can follow me, because there have not been too many hon. members on the opposite side of the house participating in this debate today—in fact none have—and he can add to whatever I say, or answer anything I have said.

**Mr. Winkler:** They haven't got the guts.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I am glad to see the Minister of National Health and Welfare listening to me from behind the curtain, because I have a few things to say to him about Nova Scotia. Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, I believe that

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

all hon. members should participate in a debate of such consequence to the health of all Canadians concerning legislation which will affect the taxpayers of Canada forever after.

With all due regard to the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) and any aspirations he may have, or statements he may have made in the past, I think this country will be here for a long time to come and I hope he thinks so also, despite certain things that have happened lately. Nevertheless I am of the unequivocal opinion that there is no member on any side of the house taking exception to the principle of this legislation. Be that as it may, we have to be realistic.

I think that the problems in the area from which the Minister of National Health and Welfare comes are especially serious. In this legislation he is not selling a Trojan horse from which soldiers come out under the cloak of darkness to bring havoc and problems on Troy; and yet the lack of doctors in this country and the lack of medical facilities make it necessary to implement this program. This is especially so in Nova Scotia, and in the east generally, where this problem should be dealt with regardless of whether it be in July of 1967 or July of 1968. The people there are anticipating legislation on medical services, and yet this legislation does not guarantee the provision of this service to the taxpayers of Canada and to those who cannot pay taxes. I am directing my attention to those people in particular in view of the amendment of the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard).

This legislation does not guarantee that service to the 20 million Canadians; all it guarantees is that the bills will be paid, and although I support this as much as the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) supports it, let us not kid ourselves. Much time will elapse before this legislation is implemented, in spite of all this hocus-pocus across the way, this Liberal convention and this leadership convention and the Prime Minister's speech on heirs apparent and heirs-not-so-apparent, and senators apparent and not-so-apparent. I understand the Prime Minister has been anointed again, so we do not have to worry about any leadership problems. That side of the house should be worried about leadership because leadership provides vitality to the party and therefore I do not want to go into any further leadership problems.