

Medicare

Mr. Caouette: Yes, and I think you will need one many years before I will need one.

[*Translation*]

And, at that time, there were no doctors in Saskatchewan. Doctors did not co-operate they did not want to. They went on strike, then, they did not want for any consideration whatsoever, to take part in the program, and when I speak of Saskatchewan, I do not talk through my hat. All my family on my mother's side lives in Saskatchewan, in the south of the province, south of Gravelbourg, at Ponteix, and Lafèche and all these small parishes. And that is where I was told about the results, about the immense victories of the socialist government in that province.

Mr. Speaker, their medicare plan did not work out. In proof of this, doctors were opposed to it, the government had to backtrack, and to come to an agreement with the doctors, because we do not have too many doctors in this house, no indeed.

● (9:10 p.m.)

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Caouette: Certainly. In French, please.

Mr. Barnett: Is the hon. member giving the New Democrats credit for having introduced the bill that we now have before the house?

Mr. Caouette: I may; but I do not think I am that crazy, because I believe that this bill is meaningless in itself.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of getting into an argument with my good N.D.P. or C.C.F. friends. Neither would I like to see the member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) die a long time before me, because he is a fine citizen and a wonderful traveling companion. I would suggest he bring along with him on his trip all those who are in favour of state-operated medicare programs, and try and implement it where it might be possible to do so.

I still believe in private enterprise and initiative, in free enterprise. I believe the patient must, and has a right to, choose his own physician, his own insurance program, and we have group insurance plans in Canada, as I mentioned last week.

Whenever I speak of group insurance sold through private insurance firms, my friends of the N.D.P. and C.C.F. parties—I know there

[Mr. Winch.]

was another party, was it the F.L.Q.?—complain about the companies making profits? I heard the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) telling us the other day: Go ahead. Let the companies make more money. What if the companies do make money, as long as we achieve results, get medical care, have doctors and have a real medicare program. Is not profit the incentive for personal initiative? And when I hear those hon. members of the N.D.P. and C.C.F. parties speaking out against profits, those people who look us straight in the face, millionaires, like the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herdige).

Mr. Speaker, when one sees members like the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), a distinguished Toronto lawyer who works for powerful national and international unions, who must get from them an annual salary of several thousand dollars, speak strongly and with conviction against those who make profits, one does not know what to make of it.

What about the case of an excellent friend of mine, a member for Toronto—he is not here this evening—who lived in Duparquet in my district a few years ago, a doctor who does not seem to live under a social insurance regime? And those are the people who protest against profits.

In Vancouver, British Columbia—the richest province in Canada—where in addition to their indemnities the members have fantastic incomes—those are the people who denounce the profits made by the big bad capitalists, by the profiteers.

Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable that such nonsense should be spoken in as distinguished a house as this one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Caouette: I have no wish to depreciate the importance of my hon. colleagues of the C.C.F., N.D.P. and P.S.D. parties. I only want the country and the house to know exactly where they stand and why they should be allowed to attack everybody, to blast everyone, to belittle everyone, to attack personal initiative, private enterprise, and Canadian employers who, to my mind, at least try to do the best they can.

Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to visit foreign countries—in fact, less than two weeks ago, I visited Iran—I came back convinced that in the medical field, as well as all other fields, we could, in Canada,