

*Medicare*

believe for a moment that Premier Roblin of my province, although he is for voluntary medicare, as he was for voluntary hospitalization, would dare to stay out, because I cannot think of anything on which we would rather fight an election than a program of medicare if Mr. Roblin stayed out of this plan.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Your leader was defeated in Saskatchewan on medicare.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Well, there is that chance in Manitoba; and I suggest that if Premier Manning wants to fight this issue, the people of Alberta will show him what they think about medicare. We are told by the Conservative opposition that the plan which the government proposes is no good because it ought to be voluntary and is not. All the evidence is that voluntary plans just do not work. Mr. Justice Hall demonstrated this conclusively in his report, and every expert who has considered the question has come up with the same conclusion.

We are being told that we cannot go ahead with this plan because there are not enough doctors in Canada. It was not so long ago that the leaders of the organized medical profession thought they could block medicare. They were arguing that we did not need medicare because people received all the medical services they needed. How many doctors and spokesmen for the medical associations in Canada made speeches in every city in this country to the effect that any person who was sick in Canada could obtain medical service, because if he did not have the money the doctors would look after him without payment; they would do this in a spirit of charity.

Now the organized medical profession realizes that, like it or not, medicare is coming, the argument is: Well, it is coming, but we cannot have it now because there are not enough doctors. They have made a complete reversal; and of course the Conservative party has made the reversal which one would expect, because they always speak for the organized groups which have power in this country.

**Mr. Woolliams:** What about the unions?

**Mr. Orlikow:** There are not enough doctors in our country, but this situation is not caused by the possible implementation of medicare. We heard the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Ballard) reading horrendous figures into the record yesterday about

[Mr. Orlikow.]

the number of doctors leaving Great Britain. There are many doctors leaving Great Britain, and the British people have a problem with regard to medical services. But, if one makes an adjustment for the difference in population, he finds there are fewer doctors leaving Great Britain this year, even though they have medicare, than there are comparatively leaving Canada, for the United States, because for the last five years at least 500 or more doctors have left this country for the United States.

This has not occurred because we have medicare; doctors started to leave Canada long before medicare was even talked about. Doctors, being pretty practical people, know that even though this government are promising medicare for 1968, it may be much later when we get it. Therefore I say that the arguments advanced by members of parliament speaking for the Conservative opposition are not only wrong but are completely opposed to the principles enunciated by Mr. Justice Hall who headed the commission appointed by the Conservative government. Those principles were endorsed, when the report was published, by the leader of the Conservative party.

I should like to deal with just one more argument put forward by the Conservative opposition. We have been told that we do not need this kind of plan; that we do not need a compulsory universal plan and should have a voluntary one.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, I want to put on the record part of an article which appeared on the editorial page of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, a Conservative newspaper.

**Mr. Nowlan:** What did he say?

**Mr. Orlikow:** I apologize, I meant the *Winnipeg Tribune*. Anyway, both newspapers are Conservative, although one still continues, I suppose out of a sense of history, to support the new conservative party, which is called the Liberal party. An article appeared in the *Winnipeg Tribune* on October 7, 1966 written by one of their leading newspapermen, Val Werier. It dealt with the voluntary medical plan which we have in the province of Manitoba and which was sponsored by that great Conservative premier, Premier Roblin, possibly the next leader of the Conservative party in the federal parliament. I want to read just a few paragraphs from this article