

Medicare

er, and the Chair was in doubt whether that had any relevance to the particular paragraph under discussion.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Chairman, I submit it has an awful lot to do with the clause because if we do not have sufficient medical manpower we cannot carry out the provisions of the bill. Medical manpower is a primary necessity. This clause deals with the definition of a "medical practitioner". What is that but medical manpower?

• (4:40 p.m.)

I was referring to the statement made by the minister, as recorded at page 9104 of *Hansard*, when he said there was no hope of providing enough doctors and enough paramedical personnel. I disagree very definitely with this point of view because it is a hopeless attitude to take. The Canadian people are deserving of much better than this. In the United States today, there is one doctor for every 750 people. In New Zealand, there is one doctor for every 700 people. In Russia, there is one doctor for every 550 people. Yet, the Minister of National Health and Welfare says we never will catch up. Russia is aiming at having one doctor for every 500 people in order to give proper medical care to her people. Then, I take exception to the next statement the minister made. He said the same argument was used in the case of hospital insurance. If the Minister of National Health and Welfare would stop and think for a moment, I believe he would realize there is a vast difference between medical care and hospital admission. The two have very little in common. Only a very small percentage of the people who are seen by a doctor enter hospital and this is, of course, only in case of emergency. Others are booked for later dates. Surely, little Johnny with a burn or cut, or Mary with an earache, or the man suffering from bronchial asthma who is wheezing and tied up inside so that he can hardly speak, are the people who should be attended to in a short time and need attention now.

Certainly, the minister's contention that arguments on medical care are apropos to hospital insurance is completely wrong. In dealing with the report of the Hall commission, the minister says it is a very fine report. I agree that it is one of the finest reports which has ever been issued; but I point out, that the Hall commission inquiry was started in 1961. Does the minister realize that was five years ago? Does he realize that one of the outstanding doctors from the maritimes stated that a doctor who graduated in 1950 ten years

[The Deputy Chairman.]

later will find in 1960 that 50 per cent of what he was taught is obsolete? Does he not realize this? Does he not realize further that we are not doing what the Hall commission report stated we should do? What did this report state? Well, it stated several things, but I should like to mention one thing in particular. It said that this year we should have 500 freshmen students added to the usual number we have in the medical schools across Canada. What do we have? I wonder whether the minister even knows. I should like to tell him that we have around 250, or just half the number recommended by the Hall commission. Let me say that the people of Canada are not going to tolerate this type of treatment. A country like ours, which is one of the greatest resource countries per capita in the world, is entitled to the best.

Then, the minister goes on to state that the government is giving \$500 million as a resource fund for the provinces to use to build the schools that are needed, to build the science centres that are needed, and to provide the teacher-scientists and so on which are needed. How can he expect the provinces to match the federal contributions dollar for dollar when the funds which would allow the provinces to do this are withheld. I am told that Premier Robarts, speaking in Toronto the other day, said that the federal government had filched \$280 million from Ontario to which that province was entitled. He said that in two years they may have this changed. In the meantime, however, he said Ontario would have to take a long look at the matter of education, health and welfare and perhaps would have to bear some of the costs.

The government has been operating on the principle that more and more must be spent on education, yet they deprive the provinces of the money to provide it. This is the reason I say it is wrong to rush this bill through when this government is acting in this way. Can the government provide the medical schools? Can it provide the students? Can it provide the priority measures that are necessary if any government is to provide the needed doctors and nurses? Let me just dwell on this. I should like to mention hospital insurance. The minister said that it is a fine thing. I agree with him; it is a fine thing, nobody disagrees about that.

Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that we do not have enough hospital beds today. This government is paying \$2,000 per bed, the same as it did in 1958. The price of a bed at that time was between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Today it is between \$25,000 and \$30,000. This government