

Question: Can you guarantee that chronically ill patients will receive some adequate form of health protection?

Mr. Fraser: The Government is very concerned about this. Ralph Hunt is concerned and we had talked about it this morning and we are quite determined that the chronically ill people should be protected and I have asked the Minister to prepare an urgent report for Cabinet on the issue. We will be looking at it next week. I can't go beyond that because I don't know the details but we will have the report and it will be taken further through the Cabinet meeting.

Question: What about private funds such as HCF, which has told chronically ill patients that their costs will not be met?

Mr. Fraser: I think that people insure not to cover when they are well, as you and I are, but to cover the circumstances when they are ill and if somebody has a long terminal chronic illness they need the cover of insurance all the more. Now, I think we need to show a little concern for those who need help most and that's why Ralph Hunt's concerned; that's why I'm concerned. I am surprised at the attitude that some funds have taken. Now the Government's got an intention in this matter. It's a firm one but how that shall be encompassed - well, we need a report from the Minister on that.

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