

*The Address—Mr. Harley*

can influence the cost of drugs indirectly. It is often recommended that the first thing the government should do is remove the 11 per cent sales tax on drugs, but there are two things that should be thought of before that is done. The first is that the removal of such a tax would not reduce the price of drugs by 11 per cent. Because of the methods of taxation and markup it would actually reduce the cost by approximately 8 per cent. The second is that some assurance would have to be given by the pharmacists, in order to be sure that any such reduction would be passed on to the consumer and not taken as part of the profit.

In the area of drug promotion some firms spend large sums of their annual budgets on drug promotion. The government could move in this area by amending the income tax laws to make only a certain percentage of a firm's budget allowable as a deductible expense. If this were done anything spent over that amount would not be deductible.

As has been mentioned in this house on other occasions, I would like to repeat that tuberculosis and mental disease should be covered under the terms of the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act. We should be at the point in Canada where we must consider tuberculosis and mental illness, just like any other disease.

I should perhaps have said earlier—its omission does not mean it is unimportant, rather that I do not think there is real disagreement in this area—that the freedom of choice of both doctor and patient to choose one another, and the freedom of the doctor to practise where he chooses, are important. The payment of a medical practitioner is expected to be on a fee-for-service basis, and based on provincial fee schedules. If this is carefully worked out I feel the only basic change in the practice of medicine will be the method of payment of the bill, and I am certainly hopeful it will meet with the support of the medical profession.

I hope the federal government, the provincial governments and the medical profession will take a flexible position in these matters, and I would urge continuing consultation between all interested parties.

There are four other matters I would like to discuss briefly and which are related in a way to the medical profession.

First I am sure we are all appalled at the number of Canadians who are being needlessly killed on our highways and streets by the automobile. I have a special interest in this

[Mr. Harley.]

because not only am I of the medical profession, but one of the largest automobile manufacturers is located in my riding of Halton. We would all like to see the automobile made as safe as possible for its occupants, particularly as the speed and the power of the automobile increases.

There are many other problems that arise in this matter. First of all, most accidents are not caused by the automobile but by the person behind the wheel of the automobile.

**Mr. Graffey:** Completely false.

**Mr. Harley:** The second factor—

**Mr. Graffey:** Brainwashed by the industry.

**Mr. Harley:** I am sure we will hear from the hon. member at a later date. The second factor is that there are many safety features now available in automobiles, but people do not avail themselves of them. I would sincerely hope the government would work closely with the car manufacturers regarding this matter, to encourage the production of a safe automobile. We would all hate to think that the cost of such a thing would take precedence over life and death.

I would now like to speak briefly about the privileges of voting accorded to the blind and the otherwise disabled. Generally when they attempt to vote great confusion arises. At least it did in several cases in my riding, because D.R.O.'s have to look up the special rules and this means others are kept waiting in line. Surely the simplest thing to do is to allow the blind and the otherwise disabled to vote in the advance poll, where time is not so important, and there are not long lines of people. No one would be inconvenienced, no one would be harmed by this, and it would allow the blind and the disabled to vote without embarrassment.

There are two other matters that are related because they refer to the interrelationships of people and their personal surroundings. Both have previously been discussed in the house as private members' bills and both have met the usual fate of such bills by being talked out. I believe the time for talking has ceased and that action must be taken on Canada's archaic laws on divorce and the section of the Criminal Code concerning contraception.

I would sincerely ask the government to allow government time for debate on both these matters and to let them come to a free vote. In this way marriages bound only by ancient laws, and which are marriages in name only, may find release from intolerable and inhuman situations. The persons who