

*Supply*

In my riding of Broadview—Greenwood, I have two of the finest hospitals in the province, Riverdale Hospital, as I mentioned earlier, the largest acute or chronic care hospital in the country, and the East General Hospital. In the last six months, both of these hospitals have come under attack. I think if the NDP is really serious about health care in this country then it should be asking all of us in this House for help.

The NDP right now is in charge of the largest hospital care unit in the nation, namely in the province, and it needs our help. When it starts to politicize the issue, the debate goes nowhere.

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to ask a question of my colleague from Danforth. Before I ask the question, I would like to say this. I have been really saddened to hear the debate and to read this motion that is before us today. I think that we have slipped as parliamentarians for the people of Canada. We have slipped and slipped very badly.

When a motion by a party is put forward of the type that we have here today for debate, when we have a health care issue in this country that, as the member for Broadview—Greenwood said, we should all be discussing, that we become this partisan for someone's own personal reasons, I think it is a disgrace. I find it absolutely disgraceful.

I would like to hear the comments of the member for Broadview—Greenwood. He did mention the fact that during the last election the NDP did not challenge the government on the free trade issue. The Liberals were the only party to challenge the government on that issue. I am thoroughly convinced that we would not have a Conservative government in this country today if the NDP had fought the free trade agreement as we did in that last election.

• (1650)

**Mr. Mills:** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier to my colleague, I would not be sitting here today if it were not for the debating skills of the right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra. If the NDP had not taken so many cheap shots at him who knows where we could have been, maybe on the other side of the House.

But I want to address your point about politicization which you made in your opening comments.

I have a paper here in my hands from Michael M. Rachlis, MD, who wrote the book *Second Opinion*. He is a constituent of mine. He is a member of the New Democratic Party and is probably one of the most brilliant people in this country when it comes to reform and change in the health care system in this country. I am sure that members of the New Democratic Party agree with my judgment on Dr. Rachlis.

I have put this paper forward. I have put his book forward on the floor of this House more than once, and I will continue to do so. The NDP should go to Dr. Rachlis' book which talks about ways and means of reforming and bringing more efficiency to the health care system of Canada. Had that been the thrust of our debate today we would have served the people of Canada a lot better.

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the member talk about Michael Rachlis' position. If members have heard his position, one of the things that he diametrically opposes is any form of user fees, a two-tiered health care system or deterrent fees.

What I find very interesting in this whole discussion today is that the Liberals are standing up and saying we should not have raised the issue. Shame on us, we should not have raised the issue. I have not heard any of them stand up and flatly say: "We in the Liberal Party at all levels, federally and provincially, repudiate the introduction of user fees."

That is what is sticking in their craw, they cannot say that because there are several prominent Liberals in this country who are repeatedly advocating that as a solution to medicare.

We have not denied that there are problems, that there have to be changes and innovations. We certainly have not denied that the financial squeeze that the Liberals and now the Tories have put on the health care system is creating problems. But we have said clearly: "One solution is we will not abandon our principles".

I would ask the member if he will stand up and on behalf of his party, at all levels of government, repudiate the introduction of user fees and deterrent fees.