

after candidate on behalf of the Liberal party trotted all over the country telling the people they were going to have medicare by July 1, 1967. Never was there a commitment more solemnly, more concretely made, and never was there a commitment more quickly jettisoned after the election was over.

The hon. member for Cartier (Mr. Klein) says some of us on this side of the house would be happy if medicare does not go into effect. That is the most spurious statement I have heard since the last spurious statement was made. We on this side of the house were pleading with the government before the recess last July not to recess the house but to stay on and pass the medicare bill. But they did not listen. They decided to recess and deal with it in the fall. Of course in the meantime the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) got his finger into the pie and great changes took place. And as soon as the announcement was made by that minister, then of course we really had a reaction.

We heard a roar of dissent from the Liberal members themselves, and everywhere one went and talked to members of the Liberal party they were saying, "Don't worry, we are not going to accept this. We, the young Liberals; we, the people of reform; we, the aggressive reformers in the Liberal party, who are its real strength and power—we are going to go down to Ottawa and face Mr. Sharp and that bunch of rightwingers who want to kill medicare."

They told me this in Toronto. Then of course we had the famous Peterborough scene, where we had all the real reformers, the people who were going to change the face of Canada, the leftists, and they were going to tell Mr. Sharp and everybody else off, everybody who was going to kill medicare. They said they were coming to Ottawa to the big Liberal convention to reverse this.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we had the charge of the bright brigade. They came charging down to Ottawa to the great Liberal convention. And what happened? They lay down like a bunch of dead dogs and rolled over, and stared in hollow-eyed admiration while the Minister of Finance crammed his decision down their throats. And when it was over they came out and said they got what they wanted. They got it all right, Mr. Speaker, but it was not what they wanted.

At that meeting they also had that other great proponent of Liberal reform, Andrew Thompson, and his story is even more tragic.

### *Medicare*

**Mr. Fairweather:** Who is he?

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Is he forgotten already? He campaigned all over Ontario on this. He said this was a Liberal party commitment, and Liberals honour their commitments. He said, "I am going to head the charge of the light brigade. I am going to head off to Ottawa and reassure that the Liberal party reverses its decision." We all know what happened, Mr. Speaker. The gore was running a foot thick out of his back by the time the votes were in, and he went back to Ontario with his tail between his legs.

What I am trying to say, perhaps imperfectly, is that this is a test for all these bright young Liberal reformers who talk behind curtains month after month and tell us in the corridors, "We are the reformers, the left thinkers in this House of Commons. You are just a bunch of do-gooders over there. We are not all going to accept these decisions by the government. We are going to stand up and tell them off in caucus, and reverse these decisions that are wrong."

But what happens inside the chamber? Nobody gets up. Neither the hon. member for Hamilton East (Mr. Munro) nor my own member of parliament from York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury)—as a matter of fact I am one of his constituents because I live in his riding—has spoken. I am now telling my member of parliament that he broke his promise, and if he persists I might not be able to vote for him next time. We want to hear from all these reform-minded Liberals whose reform stops at the curtain.

I say to them: This is your test, you talk all the time outside the chamber, let us see you get up on your feet here and repeat the things you whisper out in the corridors. Now they tell us, "Don't worry, opposition, because we now have a commitment that will give us medicare on July 1, 1968, and this commitment we won't change. This is a firm commitment. This commitment we won't back down on. The other commitment, "which was as firm as anything could hope to be," was jettisoned because the Minister of Finance did not like it. But now the date is July 1, 1968, and you don't have to worry, because you will have it."

I suggest that the commitment for July 1, 1968, is absolutely worthless. So far as I am concerned no commitment of this government will ever again be worth anything until it is translated into legislation. Then we will believe them. But I would make a wager now