

question in my mind that every member of Parliament in this House strongly supports medicare and is fully committed to medicare. I for one certainly would reaffirm, if ever there were any doubt, my commitment to medicare.

As an aside, there has been some discussion with respect to the motion that is before us, which of course is an opposition motion presented on supply and therefore is a confidence motion in the government. Naturally, in accordance with long-standing tradition, government members will vote against the motion. However, that is really irrelevant in terms of the government's commitment to medicare.

What is important here is that all members of this House, representing all parts of Canada, stand here today and make known to their constituents and indeed to all Canadians the strong commitment that we have to our health care system in Canada and to medicare. That is what is important: where we stand on the issue and not the health of this particular motion.

Canadians probably value their health care system more than just about anything else that we have in Canada, and for good reason. We all have stories of our experiences travelling abroad. One time when I was in the United States, I had a very minor illness and had to see a local physician and buy some medication. Before it was all finished, it cost me approximately \$125. We do not want to see that kind of situation in Canada, and Canadians do not want to see that situation in Canada. Indeed, that is one reason Canadians commit as much money as they do, through their government, to our health care system. In Nova Scotia we have a provincial sales tax of 10 per cent at the moment. That goes toward our health care system.

When we go to the United States and some other countries and pay a sales tax, we do not necessarily get a return for that or the people of that country do not get the health care system that we get in Canada. So, it is something that is important to Canadians and all members of the House should stand today and make that point.

In my province of Nova Scotia, we have what we consider to be a health care system second to none. That

Supply

does not mean, of course, that it cannot be improved. It does not mean that there are not facilities that we would like to have that we do not have. But the fact is we can be very proud, not only of the system in general but, indeed, of the people who make the system, the health care professionals we have in our province.

In my constituency of the South Shore, we have a beautiful new facility in the South Shore Regional Hospital with a dedicated cadre of workers, as we have in our other three hospitals in the South Shore; the Fishermen's Memorial in Lunenburg. I publicly commend and thank the Minister of National Health and Welfare for his support and his financial commitment to the establishment of a drug dependency clinic in the Fishermen's Memorial Hospital.

We also have good facilities in the Queen's County Hospital and the Shelburne Roseway Hospital. All of these benefit, as do Nova Scotians generally benefit, from a very dedicated cadre of health care workers in our province.

Medical services in hospitals, in particular, require more than professionally trained and professionally paid health care workers. They also exist because of the volunteers, the ordinary citizens who commit their time on a voluntary basis to work as auxiliary members within the hospital, as board members or, indeed, in various fund raising projects to support the work. Work that is supported from the public purse, yes, but work that is supported because many Canadians, many Nova Scotians commit their time, energy and enthusiasm to working to raise money and to do voluntarily tasks that contribute to making our health care system what it is.

As an aside, I might say that as a member of Parliament, of course, like all of us in this place, I spend time in Ottawa. No more so than I have to but, nevertheless, I do. I had occasion earlier this year to be a patient at the National Defence Medical Centre, which was the subject of some controversy when the Auditor General's report came down. I am not particularly interested in getting involved in the controversy, because one thing I noticed did not come out at that time was the quality of health care provided in that institution. As a patient there for five days, I have to say that I have never been anywhere where I was so impressed, not just with the professional-