

do not see it right now and instead of taking on the government, they take on the Liberal Party.

To politicize the health care issue the way it has today and I am a member of Parliament from Toronto, I am from the province of Ontario, Canadians will not buy the fact that the NDP care more about the health care system than other members in this House.

I want to read some quotes from NDP ministers. I hate doing this because on a debate like this today we should really be putting our creative processes to work. We should be finding ways to be more efficient with the health care system in this country, certainly without cutting back on the service, the access, or all the things we cherished in this country, and the things that have made us so special.

Here is a quote from the treasurer of the province of Ontario, Mr. Floyd Laughren on January 13, 1992: "Unless we get the system operating in a way that is in keeping with our ability to pay for it we will see user fees or free enterprise medicine". God help us all.

I want to read another quote from Frances Lankin, another prominent NDP member, on November 9, 1991: "I don't know if there is a way in which we can build a system, a drug benefit program that is fair. It might involve looking at a co-payment structure".

Here is Michael Decter, the deputy minister of health, November 14, 1991, and I quote directly: "Do we want to pay for cholesterol-lowering drugs for people over 65 when the advice is that they do almost nothing to reduce their health risk? Should we continue to pay for useless treatment? We are looking very hard at the type of services delivered and what are the outcomes". And I quote directly from the NDP deputy minister of health: "For instance, we spend large amounts of money treating lung cancer which frankly does not do much good".

Regretfully I lost my father to lung cancer about three months before I was elected to this House. I want you to know that the hospitals in Ontario, the Princess Margaret Hospital, and other hospitals in that province do not feel they are wasting their time and they feel that those services, trying to save lives, are every bit as important.

I am so upset at this NDP motion today. In my riding of Broadview—Greenwood there is Riverdale Hospital.

Supply

It is the largest chronic care hospital in this nation, close to 800 beds. This is a hospital that is 100 years old. In Toronto's oldest community newspaper *The Cabbagetown News* for Riverdale: "Future of Riverdale Hospital Remains Uncertain, Community Gathering to Discuss Options".

I cannot believe that that would be happening in my riding which had been an NDP riding for 25 years. Just the fact that they are even tampering with health care is beyond belief. The NDP is causing so much uncertainty in health care in the province of Ontario that it has no right to put forward a resolution in this House today casting aspersions on all other members of this House. This kind of sanctimonious stuff is not going to sell across this country. This is a tough and complex issue and Canadians know it. There is no way that we are going to let the NDP get away with this one-way trip.

In the central region of the province of Ontario, York County Hospital laid off 90 employees and closed 90 acute care beds last year. The Mount Sinai Hospital just laid off 59 full time and 31 part time employees, including 51 registered nursing assistants and laboratory workers. The Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Hamilton-Niagara is shutting down beds and laying off people. The county of Bruce General Hospital in the southwestern region, a hospital that enjoys a number one efficiency ranking when compared to its peers across the province, will lay off nine part-time nurses, freeze salaries and close 20 beds. The Sudbury Memorial Hospital in the northern region laid off 12 people, the majority of whom are nurses. The Kingston Hospital in the eastern region is closing beds. I could go on and on.

The problem is that the financial resources that this nation requires to maintain the health care system of this country are large and Canadians know it. It is a tough and complex issue.

I had hoped that the NDP would have put forward a motion today where it would have challenged all members to put forward some creative ideas. I want to give you an example. St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto last year on efficiency in linens, towels, bedsheets, et cetera, operating linens, in one year saved \$250,000. If that is multiplied by every hospital in the province of Ontario or every hospital in the nation then we could maybe get at things.