

Canada-Alaska and Maine Corridors

Brunswick. But with the completion of the new highway between Quebec and Gaspé, route No. 20, there is a much more comfortable and convenient way for people from Ontario, Montreal, or from the Quebec region to get to the northern part of New Brunswick driving through route No. 11 to visit the Fundy park area, the Kouchibouguac park area, or indeed, beautiful Prince Edward Island.

I heard a question asked as to whether people would be able to get there conveniently, and I should like to assure the hon. member for Laprairie that with the excellent condition of the newly constructed highway, route No. 20 in Quebec, this should not be a worry for him at the present time because of this high speed modern highway. But we must at all times keep in mind the priorities in hand and should not be getting into discussions and negotiations with governments in another country to construct highways, when we have proposed highways that have yet to be constructed in our own provinces, and indeed throughout Canada.

So, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, from the figures and from the research I can come to no other conclusion than that the United States has more to gain from this joint venture as proposed in Bill C-272 than does Canada. Bear in mind, too, what I have stated about the serious problems which face us now in my area and northern New Brunswick—the high unemployment, the cutting back of hospital beds, the cutting back of educational facilities, and all the other negative actions or programs that are being imposed on our people at the moment notwithstanding the millions of dollars that are being pumped into our province by the federal government.

In this context it just makes no sense to be debating or to be discussing the pros of Bill C-272 when we should be concentrating on working together—I have in mind specifically the members from the Atlantic region—in a concerted effort to see that these moneys are spent in those areas where they have been designated to be spent, and that priorities are identified and supported by all to ensure that we can develop and grow in our region at the same pace as Canadians hope to do in all other parts of our great country.

I certainly did want to take the opportunity this afternoon, albeit in my first intervention, my first opportunity to deliver remarks and address a bill in this House, to oppose a private member's bill, but I felt the subject was of serious magnitude and important enough to the people that I represent and indeed, as I have mentioned, to all the residents of New Brunswick, to justify my rising in my place today and speaking against Bill C-272, in the hope that we may be able to develop some planning whereby we can reach a joint agreement between the various representatives of the Atlantic region and the members from my province of New Brunswick. Thus, we might all work together to insist that the federal moneys that are going to the province of New Brunswick are spent in the way they are designated to be spent. Once again I emphasize the importance of the completion of the highway between Campbellton and Moncton, that being route 11.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being six o'clock, the hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has expired. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock tonight. At six o'clock the House took recess.

[Mr. Harquail.]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

MEDICAL CARE ACT**AMENDMENT TO LIMIT ANNUAL INCREASE IN PER CAPITA COST OF INSURED SERVICES UNDER MEDICAL CARE PLANS**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-68, to amend the Medical Care Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, and the amendment of Mr. Gilbert (p. 11210).

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention when calling it five o'clock to conclude my remarks at that point, but I thought the better of it. It occurred to me that there are some hon. members in the Chamber this evening who might not have been here earlier and therefore are unaware of some of the important truths I was putting on the record.

Mr. Sharp: Thank you, Max.

Mr. Saltsman: Particularly the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Sharp), who I know is very much concerned with hearing what I have to say on the question of his government's proposed cutback on medical services, so I have set aside my own selfish interests in favour of the national interest and decided to continue the remarks that I commenced before the dinner hour.

I also thought there would probably be some hon. members who might have some questions to raise with me. I would be very happy to answer any questions that arise. I see the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) rising to ask me a question.

Mr. Broadbent: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Saltsman: Certainly.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I must say it is very thoughtful of hon. members to permit me to ask this question. Would the hon. member in all seriousness inform the House whether these cutbacks are part of the general approach of the government to cutbacks during a period of deflation?

Mr. Saltsman: In reply to that question, I would hate to think that the Liberals are that insensitive to the needs of the country, but unfortunately one must come to the conclusion that they are. When looking at the various areas in which they could cut back or raise revenue, it is appalling to think that they would start with something so vital as people's health. For instance, when one considers the very generous attitude of the government toward the corporations of this country—the depreciation allowances that have been granted, the reduction in corporation tax—one would have thought that before making cuts in medical