

*Supply*

of universality in our social programs and look at the extent that we might have to limit the universality”.

He goes on: “Canadians would probably be open to such changes if politicians are honest about the state of the country’s finances”.

He goes on further: “I do not think people would be hostile to that type of change as long as they are aware of the economic problems that we face”.

I do not think it is stretching anyone’s imagination too far or even a little bit to suggest that quote as I just read it, if it is reasonably accurate, and we assume that it is because we have not heard anything specifically to the contrary, lends full credibility to the suggestions put forth by the New Democratic Party in its motion today.

If there are any apologies to be forthcoming regarding this matter, I would suggest that they come from my friend from Newfoundland and certainly not from the New Democratic Party.

We stand by the submissions we have made. We think the point we have been making all afternoon is well taken.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, here is the NDP again.

Based upon a quote in a newspaper, a newspaper column quoting a provincial premier as the hon. gentleman put it, the NDP puts forward a suggestion in this House that the premier of Newfoundland, because of that quote in *The Ottawa Citizen*, wants to forgo universality and embrace user and deterrent fees for health services.

I can tell you this. I listened very carefully to a discussion on television and later on national radio concerning the premier of Newfoundland and what he meant when he said what he said. He did not say what he was quoted as saying in that newspaper article. I listened to it for two days in a row on our national radio and national television system.

I think I got it pretty clear as other Canadians who heard it and saw it did, as to what the premier of Newfoundland meant when he made the statement that he made which was not the statement that the hon. member claims he made in a newspaper that quotes him as saying he made a statement he did not make.

The premier, in his statements, was referring to the fact that in our society today, it has become all too common to have people of extreme means, people who have hundreds of millions of dollars pay nothing to the maintenance of our social security safety net at all. That is what he was talking about when he made his official statement in a speech in southern Ontario.

The premier of Newfoundland is the biggest defender of our health and welfare systems. I can assure you of that. I have known him for many years and I can tell you he is. But it is getting pretty difficult with the cuts that are coming from this government and also the examples given by NDP governments that are cutting back everything.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I want to carry on from where my colleague from Gander—Grand Falls left off.

I do not think there would be anyone in this country who would ever doubt that Premier Wells has always talked about national programs with national standards. If there is one thing that this country will remember him for, it is the fact that he went to the wall over maintaining national standards.

Most Canadians would really question the NDP’s sincerity when it comes to taking a shot at Premier Wells caving in on national health standards. This is just one point that Canadians are not going to buy.

There is a consistency here though with the NDP. During the last election, and I really think we should remind Canadians about this, I remember my leader at that time, the member for Vancouver Quadra, fought a tremendous campaign against this free trade agreement. Most Canadians would agree. If I remember correctly, it was the NDP who tried to suggest that the Liberal Party should just fold up its tent and it would be a two-party system after the last election.

• (1640)

Had the NDP really been sincere about its campaign against free trade, I do not think those cheap shots at our leader would have been taken. We will make sure to remind NDP members if they get into this game too often. All of a sudden they seem to think there is a bit of a surge or something happening in the polls, although I