

What silliness and insensitivity when we are talking about the health care of Canadians.

**Mr. Mike Breauh (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I find this an interesting debate today because it is perhaps an exercise in classic Liberalism.

The concept of making the rich pay is not new in Canada. It was first, as I recall, put forward by the Marxist-Leninist party some time ago in Canadian politics and has only recently been adopted by the Liberals in some portions.

I was interested in the previous speaker not being clear as to which of the Liberal governments have put forward proposals in a very specific way for user fees. One would have thought he might have been aware of a bill put forward by the Quebec Liberal government in bill 120, which proposes, among other things, a tax for those who can afford it on medical services received yearly or a \$5 fee for every visit to a doctor, and several other practices that have to deal with the receiving of care and extra charges or user fees, as they are well known.

One would have thought if the government of Quebec had gone so far as to table a study paper on the matter and introduce proposed legislation, Bill 120, that members of the Liberal Party here in Ottawa might have been aware that it is pretty specific. That is writing it down; that is putting a document in the public domain; that is introducing legislation. That ought to be a fairly clear indication, even to them, that some of their provincial counterparts are pretty firmly on the hook for user fees.

They seem not to have read people who have gone out of their way to put on public record their positions. They seem to be rather unsure of the proposals made by Premier Frank McKenna who was quoted in the *Toronto Globe & Mail* on February 10, 1992. It is not a widely read Canadian newspaper. Sometimes it is referred to as a bit of a rag.

**Mr. Volpe:** It is a rag.

**Mr. Breauh:** The member for Don Mills just reaffirmed that the Liberals seem to feel that *The Globe & Mail* is a rag. I will quote from *The Globe & Mail* of that day. Premier Frank McKenna said:

I believe that the wealthiest of Canadians are prepared to pay some deductible for their health care in order to ensure that we can

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continue to provide the poorest of Canadians with universal accessible health care. I don't believe there is another nation in the world that has such an open-ended system of health care where they simply give the dollars out no matter what the amount to health care providers and recipients without asking for some modest deductible in return from those who cannot afford to pay it.

The Marxist-Leninists used to have a much less wordy version of that: "Make the rich pay".

I would also refer to another paper which is perhaps not widely read in the Liberal caucus. It is a local paper here in Ottawa, *The Ottawa Citizen*. On December 30, 1991 it was quoting the premier of Newfoundland, Clyde Wells:

"We may have to look at the whole principle of universality in our social programs and look at the extent that we might have to limit the universality. Canadians would probably be open to such changes if politicians are honest about the state of the country's finances", he said. "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", he said.

It seems to me that there are at least three places on record, on paper, pretty specific, in which a Liberal provincial government has indicated that it is going toward the area of user fees. It seems to me that those members, and they have now left the Chamber, seemed unsure of what their provincial counterparts had to say on the matter. We cannot impose an obligation on them to read newspapers like *The Globe & Mail* or *The Citizen* or *The Montreal Gazette*. If they were unsure or unable to get that kind of information through their caucus brothers and sisters, we now have attempted to provide them with that service. The Liberal Party, in at least three of our provinces, has come very clearly on record in favour of user fees.

I have heard some abuse of my good friend and colleague, Mr. Robert Rae, the premier of Ontario, and I want to rush to his defence this morning. I do not always do this, but today is the day.

I noticed the conference of the first ministers in Toronto in which the premier of Ontario was beginning to fight back against a federal government that has caused a great deal of anxiety. I want to say that it is about time that the premiers of all the provinces decided to kick the government in the shins a little bit to put on the public record just exactly what has transpired in the