The Address-Mr. McKenzie

I would like to point out the percentage of increase for health care in Manitoba. Hospital insurance and medicare payments in Saskatchewan are budgeted to increase this year by 4.8 per cent and 8.3 per cent, whereas in Manitoba they are rising by 10 per cent and 8 per cent. Health care will deteriorate in Saskatchewan if that is only the percentage increase they are giving to their hospitals and to the rest of their health care plans. I hope Mr. Justice Hall will start in a province governed by the NDP where they have serious problems.

In the last federal election we were treated to some of the most irresponsible statements I have listened to by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) over national television. He was on TV just about every second night saying that doctors are opting out only in provinces where there are Conservative governments. He left out the province of Saskatchewan which has an NDP government. There are three different schemes in Saskatchewan under which doctors can opt out, and they have allowed doctors to opt out for the last 16 or 17 years. So the NDP says, "We don't like opting out in Conservative provinces but it is all right if the NDP government of Saskatchewan allows opting out." That is an example of irresponsible statements that we get from the NDP, completely misleading the Canadian people.

The NDP got quite a bit of support in the last federal election. They picked up a few seats. But a lot of Canadians have been wondering what on earth they did voting for that party, after hearing statements by a former president of the NDP in Manitoba, Mr. Frank Syms. I have known Frank Syms for many years. He is a harmless little socialist. He has run many times for the NDP unsuccessfully, but finally he has seen the light. Mr. Syms quit the NDP because of a "Commie" takeover.

I will read a report from the Winnipeg Tribune. The article reads, "Long-time NDP member J. Frank Syms has turned in his party card in protest against what he describes as a takeover of the NDP party by apologists for communism and communists." How do you like that? Mr Syms says in the article, "There are too many high profile New Democrats who find nothing good in our system but who entertain no criticism of communism. Over the past five and more years, I have watched with concern and opposed the takeover of the Manitoba NDP machinery by a coalition of militant, radical groups and individuals. They include the more militant of the Status of Women advocates, anarchists, Revolutionary Workers, Party adherents, sympathizers and Trotskyists" and on and on.

An hon. Member: It sounds like your cabinet.

Mr. McKenzie: Those are words from a member of the NDP party for many years, who was a past president of the NDP in Manitoba. He was an NDP appointee, being the head of the liquor board for eight years.

The hon. member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry has stated in the House today with regard to deteriorating health care in Manitoba, that its social programs are declining. Obviously he is not acquainted with the facts, and apparently has no intention of getting the facts. I have an example of what one

province is doing, and I am sure the others are doing the same thing.

In Manitoba a \$138 million program has been undertaken to renovate the health sciences centre. That is a lot of money for a province the size of Manitoba. Breast cancer victims are now eligible for rebates on breast prostheses. Major financial assistance is now available to families purchasing hearing aids for children under 18. A \$4 million expansion to the Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Centre has been completed. An expanded dialysis unit costing \$583,000 has been opened at the health sciences centre. The government has assisted in expansion of the open heart surgery unit at St. Boniface Hospital. Construction of the \$32 million Seven Oaks hospital is nearing completion. We did not stop that. It was started by the NDP administration, which is fine. We could have stopped it but we didn't. Extensive fire safety upgrading has been undertaken at a number of Manitoba hospitals and personal care homes. Since 1977 \$36.4 million has been committed to provide 1,291 personal care beds, and \$10 million of this figure has come from the private sector. Seventy-five per cent of pensioner home owners have been provided with full school tax relief.

On and on it goes, and yet these people have the audacity to stand up in this House and say we are against senior citizens and against people who are sick. One-third of the budget is being spent on health care, and as you can see by the items I have just put on the record they are completely misleading the Canadian people when they stand up in this chamber and make ridiculous statements.

The NDP and the Liberals have used this chamber to attack the Manitoba government on other issues. This practice was started in the last Parliament. In Manitoba most of the federal election was spent on debating policies of the provincial government. The NDP did not have any of its own so it started attacking the present Conservative administration with a lot of false information. The economy was a popular subject. In the last two years under the Conservative government, 11,000 new jobs have been created. This is nearly triple the rate of the NDP. All of these jobs have been in the private sector and do not represent a burden on the taxpayer.

Another interesting announcement was made last week by a minister in the Manitoba government that four of the government Crown corporations that they had sold to the private sector are all thriving and have all hired more employees. They are doing a great job now that the government has its sticky fingers out of it. This past summer 8,631 summer jobs were created for students by private industry. In 1978 private capital investment, the real generator of jobs, increased by 22 per cent. Manufacturing investment is going up by 34 per cent in 1979, double the national rate. Yet members opposite say the economy is terrible there. Commercial building permits in the city of Winnipeg in 1978 increased 3,800 per cent. That is an indication that things are going very well. Just imagine if the NDP came back in. That sends shivers up and down my spine. In the last Parliament I read many statistics into the record which I obtained from financial institutions which were