

The Address—Mr. Yanakis

means also that ordinary people will no longer lose their shirts trying to pay exorbitant medical bills and that older people will obtain the care they need. All levels of society benefit from Medicare. Hospitals are liberated from the financial uncertainty which used to threaten their budgets. Physicians enjoy their professional freedom. They have the possibility to dispense their services to a great many people who, otherwise, could not afford them. Taxpayers pay less for better services. Canadians now pay the lowest per capita cost for high quality care, thanks mostly to our Medicare system. We fare a lot better in this regard than countries, including the United States, who have no universal health insurance system.

With Medicare, Mr. Speaker, we have a national system which eases the financial burden of sick people. Through our income tax system, we all contribute to the common welfare. That is what is being eroded. User fees and extra billing are heavy burdens to carry for sick people. These practices fly in the face of Medicare's basic principles.

Some people claim that user fees are necessary to prevent the system from being abused. They feel that some people are seeking treatment merely because it is free. But they have no concrete proof that such abuses are the rule. Sick people are hospitalized only on physicians' orders.

Mr. Speaker, the economy of my riding and the neighbouring area depends largely on agriculture. The main industry is the dairy industry, followed in order by the hog, cattle and sheep industries. Poultry farming plays also an important part, together with the production of yellow tobacco.

The recent recession has spared none of these industries. Each in turn was faced with the slowing down of its markets, high inflation and high interest rates. That was a world phenomenon, something the producers are aware of.

However, the advanced policies drafted and implemented by the federal Government several years ago already have enabled producers to cope with the situation much more easily than did the industry as a whole. Our producers got sound advice from their union. Throughout the recession, the Agricultural Producers' Union acted with foresight and was able to warn the Government when the situation was becoming critical. As Members from Quebec, we were made aware of that when the most controversial Bills were introduced in the House of Commons. I might just mention Bill C-85 to establish Canagrex, a Canadian Crown corporation to export agricultural products.

The 200,000-member strong APU testified before the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture that it would support the adoption of the Canagrex Bill as it was. Its members emphasized the importance of establishing Canagrex to promote Canada's agricultural export industry. The following debate on the Crow rate was vital not only for the economy of Western Canada, but for Canada as a whole and for all Canadians. There again, the APU worked in close co-operation with the Government, which took that opportunity to steer

a different course to avoid penalizing the farmers of Eastern Canada. In addition, we were pleased to see that, in its dairy policy summary for the 1983-84 production year, the Canadian Federation of Producers unreservedly endorsed Canada's dairy supply management system which, when it comes to stability and improved productivity, remains the best standard for the industry, in the interest of consumers, processors and producers alike.

Mr. Speaker, the Marketing formula and the implementation of quotas in all sectors of agricultural production have proved to be a winning combination for producers and the Minister of Agriculture to guarantee a fair and steady production to all farmers, not to mention the fact that the Minister of Agriculture guaranteed the basic prices to offset the possibility of market fluctuations.

I could go on and on like this, Mr. Speaker, but I realize that the time available to me is quickly running out. I do not want to conclude, however, without paying a last tribute to the rural family for 1983 which was selected in my own riding, namely, the family of Marcel Bastien, from St-Léon-Le-Grand, a small community of about 1,000 people. Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Bastien and their children have demonstrated a very deep and sincere love and attachment for their land. I know that Hon. Members from both side of the House will want to join in congratulating most sincerely this family for their success and to extend to them their best wishes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): A 10-minute period for questions and remarks. Debate. The Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) has the floor.

[English]

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to take part in the Throne Speech debate. I want to zero in on one short paragraph in the Speech from the Throne which had to do with the Government's proposed Canada-Japan auto agreement that we hope will be established or written up some time in the future. So far it appears that it is just political puffery or fluff because nothing has come of it. Let me quote:

The automobile industry is crucial to our economic well-being. Stabilizing employment in automobile manufacturing and its supplier industries is an essential task. The Government intends to seek a Canada-Japan auto agreement for the benefit of both countries, leading to additional production facilities and parts procurement in Canada.

As you know, for many years, Mr. Speaker, my Party and I have been pushing the Government to bring in or to force the Japanese into an agreement, friendly or otherwise from their point of view, to invest in Canada in plant, machinery and in jobs at least equal to sales in this country. For the past several years the Japanese have gained more and more of the Canadian automobile market until now they have approximately 27 per cent of the automobile market and that does not include trucks. There is nothing wrong with selling Japanese cars in Canada. There is nothing wrong with importing Japanese cars. I am not calling for quotas at this time. What I am saying is