

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I must interrupt the hon. member. The time for questions and comments has expired.

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Madam Speaker, I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this debate.

Let me say, in case there is the slightest bit of confusion anywhere, that this debate today is not about medicare. There is a need for a debate about medicare. There is a need for a serious, constructive and genuine debate about the future of health care delivery services in Canada. This debate today, initiated by the New Democratic Party on a so-called urgent basis, is not about medicare.

Seldom have I seen this. Let me make myself clear. In all parties we are all guilty, we should be honest enough to admit, on occasion of seeking partisan advantage, seeking to establish the ideas and policies of our opponents in less than a healthy light, seeking to propose that the policies and proposals of our own party be seen in the best possible light. That is part of the competitive political process. That is normal. That is healthy. That is what the British parliamentary adversarial system is all about. We are all guilty to a degree in political life or in any competitive venture, whatever it happens to be, of manoeuvring to the best advantage.

• (1120)

Even in an adversarial political environment, seldom, if ever, has Parliament seen such a hypocritical, self-serving, fundamentally dishonest motion as the motion put before the floor of this Parliament today. It is absolutely incredible. I pick up my news clipping service first thing in the morning, with my cup of coffee and my muffin which I should not have because my waste is expanding much quicker than my brain ever could as a consequence of reading this paper.

I pick up the paper and I read a big banner headline: "Saskatchewan cuts social spending". I quote the minister of finance for the NDP in Saskatchewan: "We are going to have to cut several hundred millions of dollars. We are going to have to look at every expenditure the government makes. We are doing that. We are looking at every program the government delivers to determine which programs we may be able to eliminate. Nothing is

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going to be sacred. We have a long way to go. We are determined to live within our means".

Let me get personal. I hope I have the indulgence of my wife for this. My wife is an employee of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. My family lives here in Ottawa because otherwise, like many MPs, I would not have a family life. My riding is so far away. My wife is a part-time employee, a term employee. My wife, along with many others in the intensive care unit of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, got her letter, compliments of the Government of Ontario, two days ago, advising her that she had been laid off.

Which government sent that letter? Which party is in power? The New Democratic Party of Ontario is in power. It sent my wife her letter telling her that due to cutbacks being imposed upon the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, she, along with many others, would no longer be employed on the current basis on which she is employed at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

When I see the New Democratic Party bleeding all over the rich green carpet of the House of Commons, holding in its ribs as it loses itself in grief and in turmoil, tantalized and tormented about the loss of health care services in Canada, and putting forward a motion alleging to want to save health care in Canada—a silly, vexatious, juvenile, hypocritical, false, transparent and foolish motion—I find myself moved to come to this Chamber and respond to this motion. I said in the beginning the motion is not about health care in this country; not at all, not in the least. It is a motion purely designed for the most transparent and despicable political motive. That is what it is, a motion which says this House condemns actions that may be taken by Liberal provinces.

How much more transparent can you get? How much more self-serving could a political party be? Frankly, lest I have not made myself clear, how much more stupid could a political party be? What an insult to the intelligence of Canadians. Does this party believe that all Canadians are somehow mushrooms—keep them in the dark and feed them some moist product from time to time and they will grow? Does it feel that Canadians are unable to see this transparent and despicable political move, that they will not see the game that is being played?