

*The Budget*

which had agreed to participate. That was the beginning of public hospital care in Canada. It had nothing to do with the New Democratic Party. What colossal nonsense, perpetrating this fraud over a period of time as though some person in the province of Saskatchewan created the whole medicare plan.

**An hon. member:** Have you ever heard of Tommy Douglas?

**Mr. Crosby:** Time and time again we are faced with this nonsense. The onus is on members to stand up from time to time, forget the empty rhetoric, and give the facts to the House of Commons.

I want to go after another area of empty rhetoric that the member mentioned, Petro-Canada, the great white father of the oil industry. The executives fly around in the same jets as every other oil company. It has the same rules and regulations for its dealers. It overcharges its dealers on tires and batteries and other accessories. It has the same plans and programs as any other oil company.

I would like to ask the member what will be the loss? Do you know any dealers? Have you ever talked to a Petro-Canada dealer and asked him or her what the arrangements were as opposed to private enterprise dealers? Put that to the test. Ask any Petro-Canada dealer how sad he will be when privatization takes place. Those are the little people who Petro-Canada is supposed to protect, not the corporate executives.

**Mr. Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that coming from Saskatchewan, we are both amused and surprised at what the member from Nova Scotia just said. Perhaps the member forgot Tommy Douglas, Woodrow Lloyd and Allan Blakeney. Perhaps he forgot, as this government seems to have forgotten, that Saskatchewan even exists. Saskatchewan was the province which brought into operation hospitalization and ran medicare on its own without any federal support for six to seven years. So let us not hear this nonsense about it. If we look at the history books we can see it.

In terms of the national program, without the lead of Saskatchewan and the New Democratic Party, this country would not have a medicare program. We will be

labouring under the same system as the Americans have in which most of our less well-off citizens would not be covered by adequate health care facilities.

**An hon. member:** A Tory system.

**Mr. Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Yes, a Tory system. One which favours the rich and hurts the poor. Let us not hear any more nonsense about the origins of medicare. It is quite clear where the origins of medicare were. They were situated in Saskatchewan and in the CCF, the forerunner of the New Democratic Party, which persuaded the rest of the country that this was a good idea.

Mr. Diefenbaker, of course, played a role in making medicare a national program. Everyone in Saskatchewan, and indeed all of us in the New Democratic Party, would admit to that role. He was supportive of the medicare system as we all know, somewhat to the surprise of his colleagues in the Conservative party at the time, and to the establishment in big business and the medical community. He did play a role and we all recognize that role.

Of course, he would be turning over in his grave at what the government is doing to medicare and what they are doing to Saskatchewan and the other poorer regions of the country. The member opposite knows that. Mr. Diefenbaker was not as neo-conservative as the government is. Mr. Diefenbaker was a traditional Tory who cared about ordinary Canadians, unlike the government.

**Mr. Butland:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday we congratulated our colleague on his expertise in a particular area. Now I have to congratulate him on his versatility. He is on his feet every day expounding words that Canadians want to hear. He struck a lot of nerves across this country.

He mentioned one of our favourites: corporations. He said we should be taxing corporations. I had occasion to ask Revenue Canada a couple of months ago what constitutes a large corporation. I was told \$10 million and above. I asked, how do you arrive at that figure? The answer was it was very complex but about \$7 million constitutes a large corporation. I asked how one got from \$7 million to \$10 million. The answer was that one had to err on the side of caution. I thought that was a very interesting answer to what designates a large corpora-