

Supply
FISHERIES

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Finally, on a totally different issue, but one which the government still has an opportunity to correct before it is too late. This concerns the imposition of exorbitant dock-side monitoring charges to the inshore fishermen of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, many of whom happen to live in my constituency.

[*English*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—HEALTH CARE

These charges are absolutely ridiculous, when it is considered that they come at the same time as fishermen in my area are forced to endure drastic reductions in their quotas and increases in their other costs. They are not only an imposition on the fishermen, they are also an unnecessary bureaucratic measure.

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North) moved:

That this House reaffirm its commitment to Medicare.

They call upon Parliament and specifically the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to rescind these measures before they are obliged to pay them. They have submitted their names, in large numbers, on a petition to that effect.

He said: Mr. Speaker, medicare belongs to all of us, to all Canadians. It is shared by every member of this House and all of their constituents. Medicare is no less prized in Winnipeg North than it is in Kelowna, B.C., or Port aux Basques, Newfoundland. Medicare is the undeniable right of every Canadian citizen. It belongs to my sons, and their children to follow. It belongs to the children of the Minister of National Health and Welfare and to his colleagues and their children. It is perhaps the most precious thing all Canadians have to pass on to the next generation.

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[*Translation*]

Medicare is not a partisan issue and ought not to be. It should be the issue of each and every one of us. I ask the members of this House: Will we now be the ones to see medicare die? For this reason, to allay the fears I and others have for the future of medicare, I have called for this opposition day motion supported by my associate critics, the members for Hamilton East and Mississauga, and by my other colleagues.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

I want this government to reaffirm in the minds of Canadians that it is committed to medicare. I want to challenge this government to make its agenda known. We have proposed a motion that this House reaffirm its commitment to medicare, a very positive motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Shall all questions stand?

I want Canadians to see that the Liberal Party, of which I am the critic for health and welfare, cares deeply about the future of our health care system and that we still believe in its universality, comprehensiveness, portability, and accessibility, and that it is a system that has to be funded continuously, publicly, on a non-profit basis.

Some hon. members: Agreed.