

British Columbia. It arose from the fact that laboratories and X-ray facilities in British Columbia hospitals were not being used over the weekends. Nevertheless, doctors were booking patients into those hospitals on a Friday and the patients were lying in expensive chronic care beds over the weekend. Nothing could be done until Monday, when the laboratory staff and technicians arrived and the usual two-day or three-day program of tests could be carried out. Here is an obvious case of hospital accommodation being needlessly taken up.

● (1250)

I had the opportunity of pleading with the provincial NDP cabinet of British Columbia to make sure that the X-ray and laboratory facilities of the hospitals were manned over the weekend so that this waste would stop, so that we would stop building additional facilities and unnecessarily tying up expensive beds. But what did they do, Mr. Speaker? Not a thing. They were not interested in the more efficient use of existing facilities. They wanted to play the same kind of political game that we have seen from NDP members in this House today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huntington:** Years ago I used to be in the business of consulting and productivity and I studied in the early 1950s, the work study concepts that evolved from Britain and from which the European Common Market, West Germany and other European nations grew. There was a great science developing in productivity work studies, critical path studies, and so on, and I had the opportunity of hiring one of these experts from the United Kingdom, who immigrated to Canada. He was on my staff for four or five years until his function with our organization was phased out. He then moved from our organization to a similar department of the federal government in Vancouver, and I never saw a man become so frustrated by the incompetence, inefficiency and the "I don't care" attitude as this lad who worked for us for so many years and did so much for our company. One productivity study, critical path study or work study after another having to do with hospitals and other government operations was locked away in filing cabinets and never read again.

Here we are, today, at the point where we are having to amend an act which has been in force in Canada for years, because the government is not paying attention to the efficient utilization of our tax resources. They have not implemented any of the studies of task forces. We have had task force report after report presented to the government, none of which has ever been studied or implemented, having to do with health and delivery care in our national system. The minister has ignored continual references to these reports in the House of Commons. Province after province has protested, yet we have seen nothing but powerful Liberal arrogance. Today we are paying for this kind of neglect.

Even before this bill is passed the provinces are having to make cutbacks in expenditure. We have already heard about the \$750 million that this government owes the government of British Columbia, reaching back to 1972. B.C. has its problems of cash flow, too. The NDP throughout this debate has made nothing but political hay at the

### *Medical Care Act*

expense of the province of Ontario, which is immersed in an unbelievable readjustment that affects the emotions of people all over the province as well as the country. The people of Ontario had better pay attention and head off the irresponsible extravagance that we have just witnessed in the last three years in British Columbia.

In British Columbia, Mr. Speaker, you never saw nests built and feathered so fast as in the three years of the NDP, B.C. sham. Our friends in the New Democratic Party talk about serving the little guy, the average man on the street. What utter nonsense! How can they do that when their vested interest and their bankroll comes from organized labour and the higher echelons of this monopoly movement? "Grab, grab, grab, and to hell with those who don't pay dues to us." They may be whining about individual cases of hardship, and so forth, but they have had their chance to serve and they missed out, particularly in the area I come from.

The waste of our tax resources by this government is one of the things that has brought this bill to this House. We have the example of \$200,000 being paid for unused rooms at the Habitat conference in Vancouver. We have the example of a co-operative to which this government has some \$4.5 million of commitment in the north of Vancouver Island which has been in operation only a year and is now in receivership. They had a \$1.7 million guarantee on a \$2.5 million Bank of Montreal loan. They have committed \$2.5 million of DREE money under ARDA to these people in order to employ 75 people, two-thirds of whom were supposed to be native people. This is an unbelievable use of money since there is not a sound, solid marketing plan to back up the issuance of this kind of credit.

Over \$86,000 per person has been spent by the government in trying to create jobs. This is how the tax resources of this country are being wasted all over the country, and yet we are discussing a bill like this. We have committed \$16 million to Lockheed for the Orion, and we do not yet know whether we have one aeroplane. The bilingualism commissioner has for two years now been calling for a better use of our tax resources for this particular aspect of Canadian life, yet have we seen one move made in any direction which he has called for? Then we have had dredging scandals—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I suggest the hon. member get back to the debate on Bill C-68, an act to amend the Medical Care Act.

**Mr. Huntington:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to re-emphasize the fact that I am debating the bill. The reason the bill is before the House is that this government can no longer afford the unilateral commitment that it imposed upon the provinces. This government has no proper priorities for our tax resources in this land, and it is time somebody brought to light the extravagances and wasteful use of our resources which have caused this bill to come to the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huntington:** This government's priorities are from election to election, with decisions being reached by "ad hockery". Their spending is out of control, otherwise this bill would not be before the House. They are spending