

The Address—Mr. Deniger

in Alberta. The poor do not have to pay; they are given an exemption and those who have the money pay.

The 34 per cent of the cost of medicare in Alberta comes through the tax transfer agreement. When the Minister says that the federal Government is paying 50 per cent of the cost of medicare, that is baloney. If it paid 50 per cent there would not be all these problems.

The Hon. Member undertook to speak for the western grain growers, saying that they would grow more wheat. The former Minister of Transport for this Party—who is not the old Minister of Transport, as the Hon. Member said—was the best Minister of Transport this country has ever had. He moved that the rates be frozen for three years because the grain farmers do not have the money to pay the increased freight rate. They suffered a loss in 1982 and in 1981. Where does he think the farmers will get the money, out of a hat? Farmers are having a rough time in western Canada. I do not like to hear anyone running them down or building up a dream world for them. They will pay their way. We must make sure they get the wherewithal to pay their way and that is why we wanted the freeze. We should take another look at the whole Crow Bill that the Government has thrust on the people of Canada.

I should like to say a few things on the national energy policy but my time is up.

● (1750)

[Translation]

Mr. Deniger: Mr. Speaker, when I hear my colleague opposite refer to the Western farmers, I can only make a parallel with the poor Quebec farmers in the days of Duplessis, the man who wanted to keep the farms small and not allow them to develop or reach their true potential and who wanted to prevent them from expanding and prospering as they should have. It is of this I am reminded when I hear those comments from the Member opposite.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to remind you that for the Liberals, the basic philosophy of their party is to make sure that those with low incomes and the poorest among Canadians have the same privileges and enjoy the same social benefits as the others. I simply shudder when I hear the Hon. Member opposite say that he is in favour of user fees, which would force low-income people to pay extra money even before they can get medical treatment; this is what the Hon. Member is telling us, while we, Liberals, are convinced that people are entitled to these services. This is the main purpose of our policy as well as the greatest achievement of this Government, and if the Members opposite dare to question it, what will happen if ever they are elected to power?

[English]

Mr. Oberle: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but be amused by the fact that our friends across the aisle persistently lament their perception that the new Leader of the Progressive

Conservative Party (Mr. Mulroney) and, indeed, the people who speak for the Party in the House, are not announcing in detail the policies which will be taken into the next election. I am amused by the fact that they become so upset and excited over this phenomenon.

I can understand their frustration because they have nothing to attack. However, they should rejoice. They can go home to their ridings and tell their constituents: "Look, the Opposition wants to be the Government but does not have any policy". As the Hon. Member well knows, there are two things which should be remembered. The people of Canada should be totally aware of the policies of this particular Government which the people, particularly those in central Canada, eastern Canada and Quebec, insisted on electing in 1980. The people should be aware of the policies of the Government they elected. The Government which inflicted the pain and misery upon them is now devoid of any new policies and ideas. This is what those Hon. Members opposite are trying to cover up. In addition to that—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I apologize to the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle), but we are running out of time. I will allow a brief comment.

An Hon. Member: We are not finished.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is not a matter of not having finished. We are running out of time.

An Hon. Member: We still have 10 minutes for comments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No.

Mr. Oberle: I rise on a point of order. The time has either expired or it has not expired. If the time has expired, you cannot give the Hon. Member any additional time. I had another point to make and you cut me off. The time has either expired or it has not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognized the Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River to put a question or a comment. However, in all fairness—and this is the normal courtesy—the Chair, in its wisdom, feels that the Hon. Member should be given a brief period to respond. I do not expect the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Deniger) to carry on for two minutes. I will allow him about 30 seconds, and that will close the period.

[Translation]

Mr. Deniger: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. My colleague for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) knows fully well I did not suggest in my speech there were opposition members who had no policy, no answers. What I did say is that those who had, as the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) for example, did not dare make them known, because they realize that knowing Canadians would never elect them!

An Hon. Member: Right on.