

Canadians, all Canadians, whether they live in urban centres or in smaller communities or in isolated areas of our great country”.

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Madam Speaker, I have a brief comment and two questions for the member for St. Boniface.

We have heard a great deal today and in the past of those across this country in senior positions in political parties who have argued for the introduction of user fees. We have heard it, as the motion indicates, from three Liberal premiers across this country. We have heard it from the leader of the Reform Party; we have heard it from the former minister of health, the member for Provencher, and from caucuses within the Conservative Party.

We have not heard it and we will not hear from the New Democratic Party any suggestion that user fees should be introduced into the Canadian health care system because of the danger and the damage that it will cause. We have heard it from the Liberals, the Reform Party and the Conservative Party.

I have two questions for the member. Does he not feel that it is important that political parties clearly put on the record for the Canadian people what their views are with regard to user fees and deterrent fees in the health care system? Does he not think that it is important to ask where these political parties stand on this question?

The second question is does he or does he not agree with his colleagues, the premiers of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick, that user fees should be introduced into the Canadian health care system?

These are very simple questions.

**Mr. Duhamel:** Madam Speaker, I do appreciate the questions and I wish those questions had been asked in the way in which my colleague has just presented the questions. I think they are really quite fair. They do not smack of this political pettiness that I mentioned before in their particular motion.

**An hon. member:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Duhamel:** My colleague will have an opportunity to stand up and debate me if he would like to. I would

### *Supply*

welcome that challenge. This motion is political pettiness. My colleague has just asked two important questions and I shall answer them.

First of all, he talks about three Liberal premiers having made statements to the effect that they would welcome, endorse or implement user fees. I would like to see the proof. Put the proof on the table where that has been stated unequivocally, and no fudging.

Yesterday on *Canada AM* one of the premiers was asked whether he endorsed user fees—one of those three premiers. He said no. Who is right in all of this? Are your colleagues trying to take advantage of you? I would like you to answer that question. Perhaps your own colleagues have not done their homework. They are getting trapped and at the end of the day they are going to hang because they have been petty, because they have been cheap, because they have debased the political process.

Is it important to ask the question? Yes. I applaud the way in which you have asked it and I thank you.

**Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Madam Speaker, I want to compliment my colleague who has again demonstrated that, at least from this side of the House, the Liberal party is more than interested in getting into the substance of debate rather than engaging in what the NDP has put forward in its motion in a misperception of what might be construed as an issue.

Again, even in the questions that have been raised by both my colleagues, both from the great City of Winnipeg, we have had no substance.

That last question I asked my colleague referred to a “may”, a “consider”, and a possible review that is alleged to have been voiced by the three provincial premiers, none of whom have anything to do with this House. It was a direct attempt to try to put the Liberal Party of Canada in this House on the record as defenders of the provincial premiers, people who have been elected by their provinces, by their electorate, for issues that are germane to their provinces. They are going to try to make the Liberal Party of Canada the defenders of those provincial interests.