

*The Address—Mr. W. D. Howe*

In the body of the article appears the following statement:

The goal of the national health insurance and the social security scheme is that all Canadians will be covered by it and all Canadians will be contributing toward its cost.

This sounds very modern, much like what we are asking for today, but still we are waiting.

Another pamphlet that I should like to quote from is one that the Liberal Party itself brought out during its campaign in 1963, and which is entitled "The Policies of the Liberal Party". At page 15 appears an article entitled "Caring for Health".

Underneath that heading the following is stated:

Establish, in co-operation with the Provinces, a medical care plan for all Canada.

It also states:

The Liberal plan for student scholarships and loans will enable more people to become doctors.

Then it speaks of more people becoming doctors; but the student loan legislation brought out by the Liberal Government, because of its excessive costs and the longevity of the course—and of course there are still no scholarships—does not encourage students to study medicine.

Another 1963 Liberal publication is entitled "Health Care as Needed", and sets out a promise for prepaid care, which is available to everyone, on terms which everyone can afford. It says that all Canadians should be able to get health care at the time they need it, without the anxious fear of bills they cannot afford. Again, this was very modern in its conception and is related to something that has been going on since 1919. But it is still nothing but a promise.

In June of 1964 the Hall Royal Commission Report on Health Services was tabled in the House of Commons. Even its most urgent recommendations have thus far been ignored. There have been many promises, and more thousands of words, but still no action has been taken. The Minister who should be responsible talks a good game on medicare. We suspect she has thought out the course ahead and has had the tactical ability to foul it up, even more adequately than she did the National Pension Plan. From the original promise of 1919 to the "health care at once" of 1948, to the party platform in 1963 and to the words in the House of Commons in 1964 and 1965, how does one go about orientating oneself in these Liberal semantics?

[Mr. Howe (Hamilton South).]

• (4:50 p.m.)

The New Democratic Party has always stood very clearly for an all-inclusive, completely comprehensive, compulsory, Government-sponsored national health plan. The plan includes doctors' care, dental care, drugs, glasses and prosthetic appliances. It postulates increased educational facilities for doctors, nurses and technicians, for preventive medicine and badly needed research facilities. The New Democratic Party stands firmly in support of all these provisions. We stand firmly against high cost partial plans, against deterrent fees and particularly against the indignity of means testing.

I should like to take the Hall Commission Report and quote from the actual charter set out in the Report:

The achievement of the highest possible health standards for all our people must become a primary objective of national policy and a cohesive factor contributing to national unity, involving individual and community responsibilities and actions. This objective can best be achieved through a comprehensive, universal, health services program for the Canadian people implemented in accordance with Canada's evolving constitutional arrangements, based upon freedom of choice and upon free and self-governing professions and institutions, financed through prepayment arrangements, accomplished through the full co-operation of the general public, the health professions, voluntary agencies, all political parties, and governments, federal, provincial and municipal, directed toward the most effective use of the nation's health resources to attain the highest possible levels of physical and mental well-being.

Within this report, however, there are certain recommendations considered to be urgent enough that the Commission advised their implementation within six months of the tabling of the Report. They are as follows:

1. A Federal-Provincial conference. This is what the Government now suggests in the Speech from the Throne 10 months after the report was tabled, in which it was said that this was something urgent that should be done within the first six months. We should be working on the recommendations of such a conference instead of discussing its inclusion in the Throne Speech.

2. The inclusion of mental and t.b. care under the Hospital and Diagnostic Services Act.

3. A crash program of health personnel training and education.

4. A children's dental program.

5. The provision of services to crippled and mentally retarded children.

6. Expansion of the Medical Research Council into a Health Sciences Research Council.