

from the medicare and post-secondary education budget by this government.

The government has changed the path of medicare. I am afraid we are going to see hospital beds closing and doctors leaving for richer parts of the nation, leaving for better pay and where the bigger dollars are. This is supposed to be a country from sea to sea to sea. If we allow this to happen then there will only be proper medical care for the wealthy in the richer parts of the nation.

* * *

GREECE

Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey): This year, Mr. Speaker, Greece will celebrate its 2500th anniversary of democracy, which had its origin in ancient Athens, with a three day celebration beginning tomorrow, September 25.

Announcing details of the celebration, the Speaker of the Greek Parliament, Mr. Athanassios Tsaldaris said: "Democracy is the only regime in European countries today which brought about peace and surpassed blocks and divided walls." He went on to say that "everyone is now turning to parliamentary democracy as the sole institution that ensures the freedom of the individual and enables him to cope better with his problems."

The highlight of the three day celebration will be a special ceremony on Pnyx Hill opposite the Acropolis in Athens where a replica of a marble stela inscribed with the ancient law for the protection of democracy will be installed.

As well, an international philosophy symposium will take place entitled "Greek Democracy and Its Message to Modern Societies".

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I am speaking for all members of the House in offering our congratulations to the government and the people of Greece on this historic occasion and as well as my hope that this anniversary will act as a positive omen concerning the future of our country.

* * *

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, for centuries the right of a man or woman to own property

has been at the very heart of democracy. This right protected people from being exploited and from having their wealth taken away without due process of law.

In 1982, Canadians lost the right to own their own homes and be protected against governments when they wanted to expropriate land. The old Canadian Bill of Rights had given us that protection, but the Charter of Rights, which replaced it, was silent on the issue. That was wrong.

For the last nine years, Canadians have been among the only people in the western world without property rights.

This morning it was fulfilling to hear the Prime Minister propose to restore property rights and enshrine them in our country's Charter of Rights.

My congratulations to the government for having the political courage to do what is right. Average, middle class homeowners have sustained a victory out of the new Canadian federation.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

This morning we heard the Prime Minister say he wants Canada to be a real economic union, and we are happy with that, but he has not backed up these words with real power to make it happen. Either you have an economic union or you do not have one. As the fishermen of Beauséjour say: "Either fish or cut bait."

How can we have a real economic union when up to three provinces and up to half of the Canadian population can opt out of the economic union?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my friend seems to suggest that because there is a provision for provinces to opt out, that would destroy the concept of an economic union.

Well that, of course, would run counter to the argument that he has been making for 10 years where he provided for an override, the equivalent to opting out, of fundamental rights, where a province could opt out of