

An hon. Member: You are against medicare.

Mr. Rynard: I am not against medicare; I am all for it, but it must be on a sensible basis, where we have the doctors to do it.

What sort of medical care will our people obtain when one considers that in the emergency departments of many hospitals one has to wait several hours before being treated. That is the sort of thing I object to. We cannot have adequate medical services if the country has not enough doctors. At the present time in Canada there are approximately 2,000 people for every general practitioner. Our doctors, apart from their duties in treating patients, are harried by forms they have to fill in, by bureaucracy and by all sorts of red tape.

I ask, what has the government done since 1963 to increase our supply of qualified doctors. Mr. T. C. Douglas, who is not here at the present time, supported me in a speech I made on this particular point. I urged the government to allow the medical schools to operate all year round and thus increase our supply of doctors. I believe six medical schools agreed to do so, provided the government came up with the necessary funds to help toward the professors' pay. This assistance was refused and today, when medicare is in operation, we have insufficient doctors for our needs. Consequently our medical services will be inadequate.

It is time that we took a serious look at the situation. The government ought to make available through the health resources fund money which will help to train additional doctors. I am sure that the majority of medical schools in Canada would be willing to operate all year round if given the chance and the money. They did so during the war, when doctors were turned out in four years. Dr. John Evan, the young and distinguished dean of the McMaster medical school in Hamilton said, "We could do it in three years if we have active support and the necessary funds."

The government turns a deaf ear to such pleas, at the same time shoving down our people's throats a form of medicare that will not work. I am greatly concerned about the quality of medical care that our people will obtain from doctors who are hopelessly harried and overworked by the demands of bureaucracy. I saw the work of medical practitioners deteriorating in England. There were so many forms to be filled in that patients

The Address—Mr. Broadbent

after a very cursory inquiry were told that they had to come back next week and the week after that. In the end, when the doctor has little time to see the patient and only has time to guess at what is wrong with him, he says, "I have made a reservation for you to enter the hospital where the doctors will find out what is wrong with you."

When this happens your hospital operating expenses go up. All your health costs soar, simply because doctors have insufficient time to spend with each patient. We have one doctor for every 2,000 patients, and in that regard Russia is away ahead of us, with one doctor to about 500 people. Even the United States is better off than we are. Yet we are crowding medicare through in one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world. I say this in all sincerity; I do not say it offensively: While I have been critical, I hope some of the things I have said this afternoon will be noted by the government and by this house, and that action will be taken to see that the people of this country get proper medical care, and to see that the picture of the just society which has been built up across Canada gets going. This is not just a matter of priorities; it is so obvious it is staring them in the face.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise and make my first speech in the House of Commons. I must say I am particularly pleased to see such a crowded house at 5:15 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. Who would have thought that so many thousands would have turned out?

Before I get to the main body of my speech I should like to say a few words about my predecessor. Michael Starr represented what is still the core of my new riding, Oshawa-Whitby, formerly the Ontario riding, from 1952 until this year's general election. There can be no doubt that in terms of his services to the personal needs of his constituents Mr. Starr performed an outstanding job as a member of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Broadbent: This is widely recognized by his constituents, whether they were his political supporters or not, and it is widely recognized, I am finding, among all parties in the House of Commons. I am also learning that among members of this house in all parties he is regarded as a man of great integrity