

● (1740)

[English]

It may come as a shock to Mr. Mulroney but voters still consider what a candidate has to say. In this case they want to know what kind of brain lies behind the baritone.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Canadians will be really disappointed when they will find out that there is nothing—

[English]

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the short time available does not enable me to correct the mass of inaccuracies that the Hon. Member made in his speech but I want to deal with one or two of them.

He said that all of a sudden the Conservatives have discovered medicare. We had medicare programs in Conservative provinces before the Government ever thought of it. Yes, we discussed the matter in caucus; that shows that our Leader is a leader, not a dictator. He wants to know what the people of Canada think. The Hon. Member is so used to a dictator as Leader of his Party that he forgets what leadership is. Leadership reflects the thinking of the people.

The Hon. Member did not tell us that the Liberal Government offered 50 per cent of the cost of medicare and threatened the Province of Alberta—I know that because I was in government then—that it would be denied any money from Ottawa if it did not replace the MSI with medicare. It was real dictatorship.

In spite of what the Minister says, now they are paying Alberta 24 per cent of the cost of medicare. Even with the tax transfer agreement, which is the Alberta people's money, they only pay 34 per cent. Put that in your hat and chew that for a while. Maybe that should make you shiver when you talk about shivering—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. In principle, the Hon. Member is addressing his remarks to the Chair and I do not wear a hat.

[Translation]

The Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau) on a point of order.

Mr. Cousineau: Mr. Speaker, I know that the rules allow the Hon. Member to make comments, but I understand these should be very brief.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The difficulty facing the Chair in the present circumstances is that only one Hon. Member has asked to be recognized in order to put a question or make comments.

I presume the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) is just about to conclude his comments.

I did not see any other Member rise, which explains why I am perhaps a little more generous than I would be if, for instance, there had been four.

The Address—Mr. Deniger

[English]

I therefore invite the Hon. Member to come to some conclusion.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take advantage of the rules of the House but my comments were completely legal. The Hon. Member said that he shivers to think what the PCs would do with medicare. I want to tell Hon. Members of the House that the greatest threat to medicare in Canada today is the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin). She is willing to play politics with the health of the people of Canada. The PCs would not do that, I can assure you.

There are a lot of other things that I would like to tell the Hon. Member that he does not seem to know, and if nobody else asks questions I should like to have another chance.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Deniger).

Mr. Deniger: Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that I was really surprised to hear the remarks made by my colleague.

First of all, when he speaks of leadership, it is clear he sees our leader as a dictator. This is because our leader is a man of conviction, who knows which course he wants to take and who is not bankrupt of ideas and policies as is the case with his leader.

When he compares a real leader with a man who pretends to be one, who conducts polls to know what course to take, who puts in his Cabinet Members who refuse to make their views known to make sure they are elected, surely, the Hon. Member opposite must be kidding if he calls that leadership.

And as for the threat to medicare, I could not believe it when I heard the Hon. Member opposite, and I had to check with my colleague from Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau). I will tell him that the real threat to our medical system is by no means the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin). Nonsense! The real threat rather comes from your Conservative premiers, your friends and Conservative Members of Parliament. Not from the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members are reminded that they are supposed to speak to the Chair and not directly to Members opposite.

[English]

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, if no one else wants to make a comment I should like to make another one. The Hon. Member did not answer my question about why the Government is cutting down on percentages but then wonders why the provinces cannot continue to handle medicare. I do not think any sensible person in Canada wants sick people to have to pay for a doctor or hospital. That is provided for by a PC Government