

Therefore, we have on the one hand pressures because of escalating costs. On the other hand, we have the federal government reneging on its responsibilities to share with the provinces the cost of health care.

This government and the previous Liberal government have systematically off-loaded on to the provinces. By the turn of the century, \$64 billion will have been cut from health care and health care transfer payments to the provinces by the federal government.

These cuts started in 1977 when the Liberals abandoned the concept of 50/50 cost sharing and forced the provinces to block funding. Even after block funding was put in place, it is the Liberals who started the off-loading with their six and five program and with the revenue guarantee withdrawal.

• (1020)

The western provinces this year will be losing \$2.4 billion in transfer payments from the federal government. Out of that, \$738 million or one-third will be as a direct result of the cumulative effect of the Liberal cutbacks in the early 1980s.

In the province of Ontario the operating deficit this year will be \$5.4 billion. It would have been only \$1.8 billion if it had not been for the offloading of the federal government. The province of British Columbia has a deficit of approximately \$1.7 billion in this current year, of which \$1.1 billion is the direct result of the offloading by the federal government. This year alone, all of the provinces will lose close to \$9 billion. The money the British Columbia government will lose over the next period of time amounts to \$6.8 billion, of which \$2.6 billion is the direct result of the cuts initiated by the Liberals in the early 1980s.

It is all very nice for the Liberals to stand up and condemn the present government, as they well should, for its decision to abandon its responsibility in shared programs with the provinces, but it is hypocritical when one looks at the fact that one-third of all of the cutbacks are the responsibility of previous Liberal administrations. They are not the responsibility of this current government. It simply learned from the Liberals and now do it with more oomph.

Supply

What we have in Canada is two way pressure on our health system; escalating costs and reduction of funding from the federal government.

There is no question that we have to undertake restructuring in our health care system to provide more community based services and to provide more preventable programs. We must do so within principles that are accepted by the Canadian public, principles of universality, accessibility, public administration and the fact that there will not be user or deterrent fees.

What we have seen over the last several months is Liberal administrations, Liberal premiers, one after another, advocating the introduction of user and deterrent fees.

Clyde Wells has stated: "We may have to look at the whole principle of universality in our social programs and look at the extent we might have to limit universality". Frank McKenna again has called for the introduction of user fees and expresses the point that he does not see why we should not be able to introduce "some modest deductibility", as he said, which is a euphemism for user fees.

We have both Mr. Côté and Mr. Remillard of the province of Quebec calling for the introduction of user fees and for the federal government to change the health act to allow it. We have them introducing legislation to allow user fees in acute care hospitals. The only other major politicians advocating user fees are Preston Manning and the Reform Party. They clearly are on the same wave length as the Liberals premiers. Preston Manning has said very clearly that he does not think we can pay 100 per cent of the bills for 100 per cent of the people. That is going to result in a two-tiered health care system, and will mean that the affordability of health care is going to be taken away from the poor.

I would like to close by contrasting what the Liberal premiers have been proposing with the stand taken by New Democratic administrations. I would like to quote the statement of finance minister Glenn Clark of the province of British Columbia, speaking on behalf of all NDP administrations in this country. He said:

All three NDP administrations will be leading the attack on the federal government if Ottawa tries to water down the Canada Health Act to allow those other provinces to impose user fees. At a time