

• (4:40 p.m.)

I think this is something that we should work out with the United States authorities, perhaps on a reciprocal basis, so these young children, in many cases, can be with their families and enjoy the love to which they are entitled.

In closing I should also like to say that I am very serious about this subject. I am not going to say anything about certain bad odours which might pervade certain sections of this House. These are things that any good Canadian does not want pushed too much. We are all elected here as Members of Parliament and each of us has taken an oath, and each of us has certain responsibilities which we owe to this country and, in particular, to our ridings. However, everyone knows that an obligation is only as good as the man who assumes it, and unless he be honest and sincere, and unless he really places a high value on his word of honour, an obligation means absolutely nothing.

Since the inception of representative Government, it has been the idealistic ambition and general intention of individuals to elect to office men and women of honour who are believed to have a high sense of moral value. But conscience is like intelligence: It is very unequally developed among men and among women. This is an unfortunate thing, because perhaps their true sides can only be known to a few of their most intimate acquaintances.

One of the purposes of democracy, and a duty with which each Member of this House should be charged, is to guard against this naturally easy way out—apathy toward vital matters of national importance. For the first time in the history of man the conflict between pure intelligence and moral values has become a matter of life and death. As citizens of this great country of ours we are faced with the problem that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are ours for only as long as we protect them against the dangerous onslaught of a formidable enemy, and I think you all know to what I refer. This is an enemy who is without a conscience, who knows no morals and is fanatically obsessed with the purpose of destroying all men and all nations who do not subscribe to the forces of evil. This is our big challenge now facing us as Members of this House. Let us first be Canadians; and second, let us be politicians. Let us get on with the business of running this country, a country that each of us should be partic-

The Address—Mr. W. D. Howe

ularly proud to have the privilege of representing.

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to commence by adding my words of congratulation to the Mover and Seconder of the Throne Speech.

It sounds platitudinous to say that the New Democratic Party is dedicated to a new national health plan, but one proof of the sincerity of this dedication is the leadership in both hospital and medicare plans introduced by our colleagues from Saskatchewan. The aspiration to a genuine national health arrangement is not unique to the New Democrats. It is clear, however, that alone among political parties we have the conception of a national health plan, Government-sponsored, comprehensive in both items, coverage and those covered.

The terms “medicare”, “national health plan”, and “Government-sponsored health plan” have been so bandied about by politicians, a royal commission, insurance companies, the Press and medical associations for so long that the health needs of Canadians have been nearly lost in verbiage. It is much like our search for a national identity. We have been so preoccupied with what we are not that we have lost sight of what we are, or what we should be.

In assigning guilt for our medicare confusion, the Liberal Party, the National Liberal Party, merits the largest measure. It is the most guilty of all because it has promised for the longest, has had the most opportunity to act and has done nothing. Again, in this Throne Speech of 1965, the rosy promise—vague, tantalizing and unsupported—has been resurrected. This strikes us as tawdry politics. Has not the government the advantage of the Hall Commission Report showing the need, the urgency and the right kind of medicare? Of course it has; but even so, the Liberal Party has not assumed the responsibility required by the Hall Report. One can imagine medicare as a nettle that the Liberal Party will parade around with on a platter but refuse, for the poorest of reasons, to grasp in hand and carry.

The Liberals have promised a Government-sponsored health plan since 1919. They have been in power 33 of the past 46 years. I have here a copy of the *Toronto Star* dated April 21, 1948, from which I should like to quote. This Liberal newspaper is so old that it may fall apart, just like the Liberal promises.

The article states:

Health insurance at once said plan of Premier King.