

Medicare

the province and a lousy, measly \$2,000 from the federal government. The rest we have to raise by public subscription in our municipalities. The hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury) well knows the desperate shortage in our area. I am sure he has made representations; I am not suggesting he has not. This is just another symptom of the phony progressive Liberal party in this country. The whole medicare thing is symptomatic of it.

Who is being asked to bear the brunt of this? Not the rich and powerful, not the wealthy, not the "haves". You are asking this of the little people, the sick, those who cannot afford help but who desperately need it. They cry out to us in letters all the time saying that they are bankrupt, and are looking to us for help and aid. These are the people on whom you are putting the screws.

As I say, it is a bitter, sad, shoddy affair from beginning to end. I know how hon. members over there like to sit, laugh and pound desks when the opposition makes a plea of this kind. I do not really expect them to have a change of heart over there because of what has been said in this debate. I do not expect that anything I say will change their views: But I want to promise that we are not going to forgive and are not going to forget your betrayal of the people of this country. You can laugh or pound your desks all you like, but we are going to go out in the country, travel the length and breadth of the country, and expose this Liberal party, this pseudo-party of reform, for the sham and facade that it really is.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to follow the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott), not because I can agree with everything he said, but because I am delighted he did say it. As a matter of fact he reminded me of a very auspicious event. One night about the beginning of September, when I was driving down Peterborough, taking my boy to school, I saw very strange portents and omens. The sky had a luminous quality. There seemed to be stars which had never been there before; other stars were falling, and there was a rumbling of strange noises. I thought something indeed must have happened. Later on that night I heard on the radio that there was something unusual—a Liberal revolt. I thought, good; it is about time the Liberal party had a revolt, not only because it is some years since they had one, but because they have so much to revolt about. I thought

if ever there was a chance for a political party to revolt, here was the moment. I thought, as the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott) said tonight, that we would have speaker after speaker standing up expounding views on the necessity for doing something. I thought that the grass was going to overtake the brass; but we have not had it. Somewhere, somehow, there must have been a reconciliation or some strange change in the views of those who attended this historic conference.

The hon. member for Danforth spoke about the bright brigade. I suppose you could call it that, but I think the bright brigade at the Liberal convention had Sharp to the right of them and MacEachen to the left of them. This might explain the change of mind.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke extensively at the resolution stage, so my remarks tonight will be very limited. At the resolution stage I did propose an amendment which was ruled out of order. I do not intend to renew it, but I do want to mention it briefly, because I thought I made a very logical suggestion to the government at that time and they now may be able to take advantage of it. I suggested that this proposal, together with a variety of other proposals dealing with welfare and development in the country, might well be referred to the Economic Council of Canada so that there might be a careful appraisal of the economic consequences, the possibilities and the needs and so that priorities might be assessed and evaluated, and recommendations made.

Objection was taken at that time on the ground that the government cannot, of course, abdicate its responsibility. And I understand well that it cannot. But, Mr. Speaker, that was never my suggestion. It did seem to me, however, that because of the confusion, the doubt, and the obscurity which had been engendered that an objective, honest, non-political view and approach to all these matters might well be better. The result could be made known to the House of Commons and to the government. It is not that this would be accepted; quite properly of course this could not be the case, but the benefit of a study in depth of this kind could be made available so that the House of Commons, the country and the government might have the advantage of it.

This was my view. At this time, now that it appears there is going to be some serious delay between the time this bill receives second reading, is ultimately passed, and the