

Established Programs Financing

growth the country is experiencing and the wonderful times we are having, the Government will increase its transfer to \$7.517 billion in cash. Talk about the perfidy of a Minister who issues press releases indicating that billions more dollars will go to the provinces and then comes before the House of Commons with a Bill which gives a piddling increase! This indicates the misrepresentation, the misappropriation of resources and the misleading of the people of Canada by the Government. Is it any wonder they do not trust them?

I would like to refer to the effect of the escalation in the Bill with respect to post-secondary education. I point out that having divided the transfer scheme into two allocations, one for health and one for post-secondary education, which was never contemplated before, it now creates an escalation system. The escalation system which should normally apply because of the moving GNP average and the population growth should be 9.16 per cent for 1983-84. The effect of this Bill on post-secondary education will be to reduce that transfer to 6 per cent. In the year 1984-85, the effect of anticipated economic conditions would be to create an escalation of 8.3 per cent, and this Bill reduces the escalation for post-secondary education to 5 per cent. That is a breach of contract, a breach of agreement. It is even more than that: it is a breach of an understanding of where we are going in the country.

I would like to refer to a statement made by David Johnston, Principal of McGill University, when he was speaking with respect to education, the new technologies we require and the underfunding of those new technologies. He said that "we were writing a suicide note for our competitive capacities in the 1990s".

The other day in Montreal the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Johnston) talked about what was our program for development, where we were going and where he saw growth in Canada. Clearly growth has to come from technology and brain power. As we do not necessarily export hard goods to the rest of the world, we have to export our ideas on technology, the best and the brightest ideas, and be the leading edge. If we do not, we will wind up with a lower and lower standard of living.

All we have to do is take a look at the report of the Economic Council of Canada. This year its report was called "The Bottom Line". The Council indicated that productivity had not grown in Canada for eight years. That situation is unprecedented and potentially disastrous for living standard growth.

Where are we going? Productivity in the country has not grown. It may have grown a little last year, but I point out to the Minister that productivity dropped by 2.8 per cent in 1982. Therefore, if it grew by 2 per cent in 1983, we did not get back our losses in 1982, let alone our losses in 1981 or in preceding years. We must have the development of intellectual capacity in the country. The only place in which that can happen is in the post-secondary educational stream. We require universities, technical colleges and community colleges. If we do not train our people, they will be incapable of competing in a highly technical world, will have to use the technologies of

others, will truly be hewers of wood and drawers of water, and will have to live to the standards that exist in South Korea and Taiwan. It is a competitive world. If we do not keep up and keep ahead, our standard of living will drop to those of other countries. We cannot allow that to happen. We cannot depend on the export of metals and minerals to keep us alive and growing. We cannot depend upon the export of raw forest products to keep us growing. We have to depend upon the new technologies coming onstream. If we do not educate our people to do that, our standard of living will become worse and worse and our people will look forward to nothing more than a dull, grey, bleak, cold future.

In this week's edition of *Maclean's* appeared a very dramatic presentation. Normally *Maclean's* has a coloured picture on the cover of someone who is well fed and well dressed. This week's issue has a black and white cover showing people in poverty, hungry, without money, without jobs and even without hope. I was impressed with a quote by one of those interviewed. He blames himself. He said: "I should have stayed in school; I only got grade 10". Only grade 10, only grade 12 or only grade 13 is not good enough if our people are to have the standard of living that they demand and are capable of having. They have the brains but they need the opportunity to learn.

● (1250)

You cannot make people learn but you can sure give them the opportunity. We are starving to death our universities and colleges, making it impossible for teachers to teach because there is not enough space. We are turning away young people who want the opportunity to develop themselves as well as older people who want to return to school in order to keep up with the times. We are even turning away those who would be receiving grants from the Department of Employment and Immigration in order to upgrade their skills because there is no damn room in the classrooms.

What does this Government do? It applies six and five in order to save \$260 million so that it can boast in its Speech from the Throne that it has a \$1 billion Youth Opportunity Fund. I know where \$260 million of that \$1 billion comes from. It comes right out of the post-secondary education stream and goes to another Minister so that he can deal it out a bit at a time to see if he can get some political credit.

This is what it is all about. Break your contract so that you can get credit politically. This Government does not mind bringing in programs providing it can put on the door "The Minister of this" or "the Minister of that", and providing it can send a Liberal Member of Parliament to hand out the cheque. When it comes to the base fairness set out in the Established Programs Financing Act, where it is clear that the responsibility for manning and operating the institutions is provincial and what we have is an honest division of resources to support the necessary ongoing program, if the federal Government does not get its picture in the paper handing out the cheque, it wants to cut back and cut back.