

Mr. Speaker, this is a deplorable piece of legislation because the principle of it is one of betrayal. The Bill betrays the provinces of Canada, the provincial governments of Canada and betrays the universities of Canada. It betrays post-secondary institutions of Canada, it betrays the young people of Canada and it illustrates rank hypocrisy in the actions of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that those are not my words. They are the words of the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), the Minister of Justice. I regret that he is not here to say those very words himself at this time. I cannot match the wonderful twang and dialect that he uses when he is on stage; but he did say those words. He said them on February 7, 1984. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that on that day the Hon. Member for St. John's West spoke the truth. I have only been here four years. I do not want to get into any disputes with my colleagues about whether there was another occasion when he spoke the truth. But I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that on February 7, 1984, the Hon. Member for St. John's West said something that was very true at that time, as it is very true today. That is why I regret that he is not here so that we can see whether or not he still remembers the truth.

This is a deplorable Bill and it is a betrayal, just as two years ago Bill C-12 was a deplorable Bill and a betrayal. We have been told by some of the Government's spokespersons that this is not a cut, it is an increase and not a cut. In fact, the short title of the Bill is: "an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977". In other words, this Bill changes what was agreed upon between the federal Government and the provincial Governments almost 10 years ago. That is a cut and it was called a cut by a colleague of the Hon. Member to whom I have referred.

● (1550)

I also wish to refer to what was said by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) in the same debate when she was attacking the then Government about a cut. At that time we were debating the same sort of Bill, a Bill to amend the formula. The formula was supposed to increase the contributions of the federal Government to health and post-secondary education in the provinces in accordance with the growth of the economy.

Two years ago, the Government was cutting back on the increase that would have kept pace with the cost of providing health and post-secondary education services. At that time, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, who was then in opposition, said that, first and foremost, Bill C-12 is still a tax grab by the Government. It is the same kind of tax grab that the Government is getting into with this Bill.

When is a cut or a tax grab not a cut or a tax grab? The answer, of course, is when the speaker crosses the floor and becomes a member of the Government. In fact, this Bill provides for a very serious cut, much more serious than the cut provided by the Bill that was condemned by the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Minister of Justice two years ago.

### *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

A question was raised about an hour ago by an Hon. Member who did not stay around for the answer. Two years ago, a cut was made by then Liberal Government over the protests of the Official Opposition, now the Government, that in five years totalled \$911 million, a little under \$1 billion, to post-secondary education transfers. We are now facing a cut which in the next five years will total \$5.5 billion, six times as much as the cut that was considered so outrageous by the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and on the same basis as they had reckoned it.

There had been an agreement between the provinces and the federal Government on a certain formula by which expenditures for post-secondary education and medical health care would increase in proportion to costs. When the Government cut that back by a figure of less than \$1 billion, the then Opposition condemned that as a cut. The Government, the former Opposition, now wants to cut by six times that much and it says that the cut is an increase.

This cut will seriously hurt the young people of Canada and the future of Canada's industries and educational system. I can give examples of this from one province, the province which I represent, namely, Ontario. These cuts will affect three post-secondary education institutions connected to the riding that I represent. It will affect the University of Toronto and it will also affect the University of York, many of the students and staff of which live in the riding of Spadina. The same is true for Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. In the next five years, the Bill being pushed through the House by the Government will cut \$2 billion out of Ontario resources for education.

I have spoken before about the very specific deterioration of education at the University of Toronto. There have been cuts in staff and in vital programs. Whether it is considered vital that students should learn the languages of Canada and the world or learn mathematics and computer programming and sciences, those programs are being cut.

I would like to refer to some of the remarks made by the Premier of Ontario recently. He pointed out that these cuts which will amount to more than \$2 billion in the next five years will weaken our country in the very areas where we must marshal our greatest strength. He points out that a cut to Ontario transfers, by the end of the expiry date, will amount to the equivalent of 90,000 hospital in-patients or one million hospital out-patients per year. He has also put it another way. He compared the cuts to 75,000 full-time students at post-secondary institutions being cut out. He went on to point out that it is a fact that hospital insurance costs have risen from 1984 when they were \$2 million to \$9 million in 1985. That is the cost for 110 hospitals in Ontario which pool insurance costs in order to get the best deal. Costs have more than quadrupled. Those costs will have to be borne by the hospitals.

A famous cancer treatment hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital, has 202 beds. Studies have shown that that hospital is overcrowded and deteriorating and it is said to be at the risk