

Government Orders

The enrolment in post-secondary education in this country has risen 43 per cent, and I just mentioned that the expenditures on training and education have risen about 6.7 per cent.

It is a strange thing to look at the front page of *The Globe and Mail* and get this, it reads "Education Only For the Wealthy". Reading *The Globe and Mail* it might be thought to be positive advertisement. But even *The Globe and Mail* had to be concerned about what is happening to our post-secondary institutions. They are in dreadful shape.

I wish that my Liberal colleague from Newfoundland had pointed out that they have laid off in the major institution not tens but hundreds of staff. In some universities in this country tuition has risen up to 250 per cent.

To give some specificity to this, let me look at some other figures that I think I have available to me on my desk. In 1980-81, in Newfoundland, which is an appropriate example, tuition fees amounted to 10.2 per cent of general operating income at Memorial University. By 1988-89, and that does not include the budget years 1990-91, 1991-92, or 1992-1993, already by 1989 the portion cut of operating income at Memorial University met by tuition fees was 13 per cent. By God, it must be on its way to 16, 17, 18 per cent, perhaps 20 per cent. I am sure if I had the figures before me that is what I would find.

In Nova Scotia it has risen from 14.7 to 21.6 per cent and in Ontario from 16.9 to 20.4 per cent. In Ontario a New Democratic government for heaven's sake has had to increase tuition because this government has deprived Ontario to an extent even greater than other provinces of the transfer of payments for post-secondary education and medicare.

Oh yes, it brings in a bill and does a little bit of housekeeping. But people understand that this is just part of a continuing action by this government with its hypocritical stance with respect to training and education. It continues to do one thing and say quite another.

Of course we are talking about medicare and we are talking about Established Programs Financing. I do not have to elaborate on what is happening to medicare in this country. Here we have in our nation the exemplary

example of what a nation should provide for its citizens with respect to health, with respect to accessibility, universality and affordability.

And it is because of this government that provinces such as Quebec, New Brunswick and Alberta are talking about user fees for medicare, talking about a system of two-tiered health in which the rich will be healthy because they can afford it and the poor will be increasingly unhealthy, mimicking the situation in the United States. There, only the rich can go into a hospital waiting room with impunity and hope to get a bed because they can afford it. Then one of, I suppose, the least controversial elements in this bill really does provide for the harmonization of the GST and the provincial sales tax. I do not want to engage at this stage of the game, because I have so little time to do so, in an appropriate criticism of the GST. The GST replaced the MST, the manufacturers' sales tax, which was described as a silent killer of jobs. One advantage of the GST is that it kills jobs and everybody knows it.

It kills jobs and everybody knows it. I hear a Conservative member over there quietly saying: "Ah ha".

An hon. member: Nonsense.

Mr. McCurdy: Let me tell you, I hope that my province will not succumb to a transparent blackmail being perpetrated by this government to force my province to integrate its sales tax with this abominable federal sales tax which is killing jobs in Windsor at a rate that is absolutely scandalous.

There is no reason why this government could not have attacked the issue of cross-border shopping, which is a serious problem, in a creative way rather than trying to use a bludgeon of cross-border shopping to force the provinces to fit into this tax which has been the offspring of an ideology which has not been in the interests of this country and an ideology that will die a mortal death.

It will certainly die a death in the next election and will turn back the clock to a time in which Canadians could be confident that they had a government that had a commitment to fairness and social justice as this government does not.

Let us have this little housekeeping bill, but let us keep in mind that what this bill does is make it a little bit