

Health Resources Fund

acceptable to the minister, the proportion and amount of the contribution of the fund towards the acquisition, construction and renovation of health training facilities and research institutions within the provinces to which such payment or contribution is to be made pursuant to section 4 or 5.

"(2) The Governor-in-Council shall make regulations prescribing the manner of carrying out and giving effect to paragraph (d) of sub-section (1) of this section in order that the contribution of Canada towards the acquisition, construction and renovation of health training facilities and research institutions within the provinces shall be acknowledged in a manner approved by the minister."

• (7:50 p.m.)

I do not want to hold up the work of the committee. I shall only take a minute to explain that over the last 30 years we in the federal parliament have got ourselves into the position of raising vast sums of money. We as federal politicians take the responsibility of raising those moneys through income tax, excise tax and otherwise, and we are paying out this money to politicians who do not have the responsibility of raising it.

I suggest that this now constitutes a serious situation in Canada. We have heard a great deal about co-operative federalism in this parliament, and in this house. It seems to me co-operative federalism is a two-way street, in which we in this parliament must recognize our responsibilities to provide the provinces with the resources and the facilities they require to carry out the programs they must provide, and in which they in turn must be prepared to recognize the role of the federal parliament and federal government in the carrying out of our programs.

I could enumerate the shared cost programs to which the general remarks I have made apply, but I shall make reference to only three with which hon. gentlemen opposite are familiar. They are familiar with the very excellent program they initiated, the vocational training program, under which the government of Canada contributed substantial capital cost grants towards the construction of vocational schools. I compliment hon. gentlemen opposite upon initiating that program when they were in government, but I suspect there is not one out of a hundred Canadians who recognizes that federal money has gone into the construction of vocational schools.

I refer also to another program that hon. gentleman opposite initiated, the shipbuilding subsidy program, which was a particular application in my province. Under it the federal government paid a 35 per cent subsidy on ships built in Canada; yet I suggest

[Mr. Basford.]

only about one out of every one hundred British Columbians realized that federal taxpayers contributed that 35 per cent.

As I say, I do not want to hold up the work of the committee, but I have moved this amendment to clause 7 of the bill, which is a government bill. I am a government backbencher but I have never regarded myself as a rebel or maverick. However, I regard it as important to preserve the prestige and stature of the federal parliament and the government of Canada, and this amendment is designed to do that.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, the amendment asks that the minister seek an agreement from each of the provinces covering projects to be approved under the legislation indicating, in a manner acceptable to the minister, the extent of the federal participation. The federal parliament is now, I hope, about to pass legislation providing for participation by federal funds, up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost of projects covered by the legislation. I think it is desirable that the funds that are voted by the federal parliament be regarded as having been provided through taxation exacted by the federal parliament, and to that extent I appreciate the objective of the amendment.

But I must point out to members of the committee that we have had several conferences with the provinces and at no time did we discuss this particular matter. The government has no commitment with respect to the provinces that this would or would not be done. In my view this is a matter upon which each member of the committee can decide for himself. It is not the kind of matter that I want to make the subject of confidence at this particular time.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Some hon Members: Question.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Chairman, I think we should take a second look at this. We are interfering with education, a provincial matter, but under this amendment we would be giving the minister complete control. A later clause in the bill provides for the establishment of a health resources advisory committee, consisting of eleven members, ten to be appointed by the lieutenant governors in council and the eleventh being the deputy minister of national health.

This committee should be a sufficient safeguard. When we reach that clause we shall