

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

measure or speak to it, and while he was not able to explain the measure, he was able from time to time to make an otherwise boring echo which came back on those who have already convinced themselves of the Draconian measure of this Bill and that he was available from time to time to provide some colour commentary. For that I congratulate him, because his colleagues opposite have not been able to find an enlightened, energetic heckle. I congratulate you, my friend, for finding your feet and your courage and, if not as is otherwise the case, your intelligence in posing such a question.

**Mr. Redway:** Let's hear the answer.

**Mr. Tobin:** Is it not better than something that is recorded in the history books? First, the Hon. Member is trying to give the impression to the people of Canada that the rate of inflation for the country as a whole, 4 per cent, is the equivalent rate of inflation, both in health and in education.

**Mr. Redway:** Prove that it is not.

**Mr. Tobin:** The Hon. Member would be the first to admit that that is absolutely wrong. He would be the first to acknowledge that in our education and health care systems, the cost of moving with evolving technology, retooling and staying relevant to the big world is significantly higher than 4 per cent.

• (2120)

The Hon. Member asks me to prove that he is not right and is implying that as a Liberal, I am disagreeing simply to be difficult. The Hon. Member himself would acknowledge that the Tory Government of New Brunswick opposes this measure. The Hon. Member would acknowledge that the Socred or Tory Government of British Columbia opposes this measure. The Hon. Member would acknowledge that the Government of P.E.I. which was just swept out as the first victim of Mulroneyism—sorry, Prime Ministerism—opposed this measure. The Hon. Member would admit that the Minister of Education in Nova Scotia under Premier John Buchanan, a Tory, opposes this measure.

I am not opposing this measure just to be difficult. I am opposing it for the same reason the Canadian Medical Association and nurses' associations oppose it. I oppose it for the same reason those organizations that speak on behalf of doctors and hospital administrators oppose it. I oppose it for the same reason students oppose it. I oppose it for the same reason 20-pages-worth of responsible, credible, important contributors to society oppose it.

I would say to the Hon. Member—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I would like to fit in at least two questions.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, in examining this Bill and the cuts that are contemplated in it, it appears to me that the burden of providing health care and education services will fall

even more heavily on the less well-to-do provinces. Since the Hon. Member comes from Newfoundland, I wonder if he could comment on how these cuts will impact on the Atlantic provinces.

The cuts are bad for all the provinces, but it seems to me that they will be particularly harsh for the have-not provinces that need federal transfer payments. Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia have been objecting to this measure as well. Perhaps the Hon. Member could comment on how this will, to an even greater extent, provide for inequalities between provinces. Has the Hon. Member looked at that at all?

**Mr. Tobin:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member who asked me a question a short while ago said that I am making the same speech I made this morning. Of course, that is not true. He inadvertently left some misleading information on the floor of the House of Commons. This morning I dealt almost exclusively and in great detail with the impact of this Bill on my own Province of Newfoundland. In the Province of Newfoundland, those cut-backs will amount to \$187 million; in the Province of Nova Scotia, \$282 million; in New Brunswick, \$228 million, in P.E.I. with a scant 125,000 people, \$40 million.

The example I gave this morning bears repeating and it is that in Newfoundland, the health care system is already so strapped because of the high level of unemployment and the fiscal constraints on the provincial Government, which cannot handle the cut-backs, that in order for a group of parents from the community of Flower's Cove to develop a classroom for handicapped students so they would not have to travel an hour and a half by bus to be educated, the parents organized the community and raised funds in order to graft on to the side of the existing school a classroom for 12 handicapped students, almost without the consent of the provincial Government. The parents did this as a way of forcing the school board to hire a teacher so that these students could be educated in their own community. That is an example on the education side of the current pressures that are being felt by the province and the boards of education and how they affect people.

On the medical side, a colleague of mine, Dr. Jacobs, who has lived and worked on the northern peninsula in the small rural communities, called me this morning to speak about Bill C-96. He has been a Canadian for four years and in that four years has come to respect, admire and love this country. His words to me were quite simple. He said: "For God's sake, man, we have already developed a second-class Canadian citizenship in the communities of the northern peninsula with respect to health care, so stop this Bill". I hope that in some small measure, this will contribute to the understanding of Hon. Members of the reality of these cut-backs in rural communities.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, as many Hon. Members have stated already, the purpose of this Bill, no matter which way one looks at it, is to cut federal funds for education and health care