

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

Members across have said, "Well, the provinces can spend the money as they please". Does it please a province to have to put funds into health care? I would like to think that that is not a pleasure, that that is a necessity the provinces have to provide. Do they derive pleasure in handing out welfare to the unemployed people of this country? That is a need that the provinces are providing. The large majority of those funds have to be given out by the provincial Governments, and they have little or no choice at all as to whether or not the expenditures will be made. It is this Government and this Parliament that has the choice. It is up to us to make the proper choices here today or on another day when we vote on this legislation.

Let me read to you a quote from Doctor Donald Savage, President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. He said about the proposal of the Government the following:

Such a measure would result in reductions that would exceed by nearly 20 per cent those implemented by the Liberals and that the Conservatives opposed at the time.

Now, is that not unusual? The Conservatives voted against a Liberal measure and then replaced it with one which cuts 20 per cent more than the previous one. What is wrong with those Conservatives? Their only consistency is that they are never consistent. That is all we can say about them.

● (1650)

Let me take a minute and give some excerpts from the speech of the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) which I found in *Hansard*. The Hon. Member when he was in opposition said, and I quote:

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.

That speech was made by the Hon. Member when he was urging this House to pass legislation to ensure that there would be proper funding of our university system and for other services we require. What has happened to that Hon. Member? Why is he not coming to the rescue of our universities? He is speechless.

It is not just the people who want to hand out the taxpayers' dollars freely who are urging more funds for our university system. I would like to quote an excerpt from an editorial in the *Star Phoenix* of August 24, 1985. It is entitled "University Needs". It reads:

When as Conservative and influential a group as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce urges more Government spending, it's time to take notice. The Chamber has been pressuring the federal Government for years to reduce its deficit and improve its debt position.

With about 165,000 members across the country, ranging from cornerstore operators to heads of major manufacturing firms, the Chamber has consistently welcomed any indication that Ottawa plans to cut spending. But this week, Chamber President Roger Hamel urged Science and Technology Minister Tom Siddon to spend more on universities. He said the business community is increasingly concerned that the squeeze on post-secondary education funding will

make it impossible for universities to meet the demand for research and development, or even to provide adequate basic instruction for students.

Those are the words of a very Conservative group. Everyone on both sides of the House will acknowledge that. This group is urging the Government and this Parliament to increase funding to post-secondary education. I ask all Hon. Members of the House to take note of that.

I would like to refresh your memory as well, Mr. Speaker, with respect to a speech made by the Hon. Member for Kingston and The Islands (Miss MacDonald), when she was in opposition, concerning the same topic. She said, and I quote:

I would say that the consequences may not readily be discernible to the federal government, but to the thousands of young Canadians in post-secondary institutions of this country and to the hundreds of people who staff our community colleges and universities, the consequences are very clear. In fact, they are frightening.

That is from page 823 of *Hansard*. That is what the Conservatives were saying when they were in opposition.

In closing I would like to remind the House that the Government made several promises to the people of Canada. In the book of promises, to which I often refer, there are promises regarding research and development. The Government said it would double its research and development efforts to 2.5 per cent of the Gross National Product in the first four years in office. Yet what has the Government done? It is cutting funding to universities which are doing this research at the same time it is trying to make us believe it has the will to live up to the promises and commitments it made to the people of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, we, of the Liberal Party, do not support this Bill. We intend to let the Canadian people know that we will never support such legislation. We are calling upon every Member, on both sides of the House, to take the initiative of convincing the Finance Minister (Mr. Wilson) to withdraw this Bill. Should he refuse, all Hon. Members should feel duty-bound to vote against it immediately.

[*English*]

**Ms. Jewett:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Member would refresh my memory about the exact date of the speech of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), if he has it?

**Mr. Boudria:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for that question. I should have brought it to your attention, Mr. Speaker, although I am sure you remember the speech vividly as well as do all Hon. Members. In case someone wants to read the speech in *Hansard*, because it is a very important speech made by the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands when she was in opposition, it is found in *Hansard* of January 27, 1984. The speech of the Hon. Member for Mississauga South will be found at page 816 of *Hansard*, and the comments I referred to subsequently, also made by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South, will be found on page 818. I know the Hon. Member for New Westminster—