

*Routine Proceedings*

The Western Diversification Program is being cut by \$1.39 million. I say to the minister he, like I, must have seen and heard over recent weeks media reports of the terrible tragedy going on right now in the province of Saskatchewan with the loss of population and the tremendous economic losses. There is suffering going on in the province of Saskatchewan right now, and they desperately need help.

Let us turn to the cuts in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. If there is any group in this society which needs to be cut, then this group should be the last to suffer any kind of cutback.

• (1150)

I have the honour and privilege of representing a native community in the House, the Akwesasne Indian reserve, which is located partially on Cornwall Island in my riding and partially in the constituency of my colleague, the hon. member for Beauharnois—Salaberry. We see a cutback in that area of \$1 million.

In the area of Energy, Mines and Resources we have been made aware of the cuts in energy conservation and other very vital programs to which the government itself says that it is committed. The hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean often speaks eloquently of how he and his government are pretending to defend and protect our environment. Yet we are seeing these cutbacks in areas such as energy conservation, and others.

My colleague from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce has often raised questions in this House on the very important topic of Employment and Immigration.

[*Translation*]

The Canadian Jobs Strategy will suffer cuts totalling \$15 million. The cuts in summer programs for young people are totally unacceptable. This year, my riding will get 10 per cent of what it received the year before, 10 per cent! A 90 per cent cut! And the same applies to Ottawa—Vanier, Carleton—Gloucester and several other ridings in the National Capital region, including Ottawa—West; a 90 per cent cut! Are young residents of the National Capital region supposed to do without summer jobs? How are they going to pay their tuition fees next fall? This is the same government that only two or three weeks ago was bragging about its strategy for

keeping youth in school. I find that hard to understand, Madam Speaker.

[*English*]

In terms of National Health and Welfare, it was described to us this morning in a very summary fashion, because of the limited time, that there were going to be cuts in the alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs. That is what we were told at the Estimate briefing.

**Ms. Black:** At one minute to eleven!

**Mr. Boudria:** My hon. colleague says that that was at approximately one minute to eleven o'clock. That is the time that we were finally given the information.

We know, and it was said yesterday in this House, about how the transfers to the provinces will result in potential cuts in hospital beds. That has been made very clear. We all know how strapped the provinces are in trying to offer quality health care. With a cap on funding now from the federal government how will they do it?

In the area of Employment and Immigration that I mentioned a few moments ago, I just want to get back to one further point. I want to refer to the area covered by Bill C-21, that famous bill introduced by the government which will cut back on benefits to my constituents and others. The government cuts back on benefits involving unemployment insurance. That, in turn, will increase the welfare rolls. Do you know what the government says to the province of Ontario, Madam Speaker? "Don't you dare increase welfare payments because we are capping your payments".

Who causes the welfare payments to go up? The federal government, by decreasing unemployment insurance benefits. So the government is pulling back from unemployment insurance. It causes welfare to increase and then refuses to pay its part of the bill under a contractual arrangement that it has with the provinces. It has put a cap on. It says: "If your benefits increase more than 5 per cent, tough luck, provinces."

What are the provinces going to do? They have to increase taxes of their own, or they are going to ask municipalities, which in Ontario for instance pay 20 per cent of the bill, to increase their share.

When this government claims that it is living within its means, that it is doing a proper job and that it is not increasing taxes, all of those things are false.