

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

across the country outside Ontario that they not submit bills to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, but bill patients directly. We have not heard a peep from the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), whose job it is to protect each and every Canadian.

If I am travelling in Manitoba, Alberta, or British Columbia, as an Ontarian I have the right to full access to services. In aiding and abetting the action we saw on the six o'clock news where medical doctors were accusing the Liberal Government of Ontario of neo-Nazism, carrying histrionics to an extreme, we see the federal Progressive Conservative Government following the lead of its counterparts in Ontario and remaining strangely silent. It has sat by while the provincial leader of the Conservative Party assists the doctors in trying to contravene a unanimous law passed by the federal Parliament under the leadership of the Liberal Government.

Those of you who were here in this Chamber at that time will remember the fight Monique Bégin had as the Minister of Health. She took the fight to the people and said that she fundamentally believed that Canadian men and women support the notion of equal access to quality health care. Yet we see tonight not only has this Conservative Government sat back and remained silent on one of the most important health issues facing the Province of Ontario, at the same time we see with this insidious legislation that it will be further cutting back on health and post-secondary education budgets across the country. In Ontario, as an example, a quick calculation will show that with the \$8.1 billion being cut, more than \$2 billion will be taken out of the health care and education budgets in Ontario. As a matter of fact, the provincial Liberal Government will be faced with having to recoup almost \$3 billion in lost funds as a result of this Government's move to pay the deficit on the back of the provinces, the sick, and students who want to pursue post-secondary education but who may not have the financial means.

[Translation]

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that what we are dealing with this evening is the issue of universal access, not only to health care, but also to post-secondary education. We know that there is now such a crisis nationally in post-secondary education that, a few weeks ago, a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada stated that he was afraid that our system would continue to deteriorate if the federal Government maintained its intention to reduce its funding by \$8 billion as proposed in this Bill.

[English]

"Universities desperate for money, Judge says". "Canada is on the verge of becoming a second-class nation because of a tragic under-funding of universities by federal and provincial Governments, Chief Justice Brian Dickson of the Supreme Court of Canada says". In an uncharacteristically blunt attack, Dickson told graduating students of the University of British Columbia—and we know the situation in British Columbia has not been a pleasant one for students of post-

secondary education—"Canada must have good universities with outstanding teachers and world class research facilities. Second class funding of universities will inevitably lead to second class teachers, second class students and, ultimately, a second class nation." In this particular motion, in this particular Bill—

[Translation]

In Bill C-96, the federal Government is suddenly asking the provinces to pay, and Quebec will lose about \$3 billion. Ontario will lose \$2.5 billion. The amounts vary for the other provinces, but the effect will always be the same. We shall have to reduce our health care budget and the funding of our colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, I think that Judge Dickson was right to say that, if we continue to reduce university budgets, if we continue to make cuts in our education budgets, we shall end up with a second class nation.

Let us consider the work done by the previous Liberal Governments. They have provided Canada with a health care system unparalleled in the world. I think Canadian men and women are proud of it. We are aware that a few problems remain just the same.

In the excellent speech he made earlier, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Keeper) suggested that we might start dealing with the system's problems by referring to the prospective analysis made by Mr. Lalonde over ten years ago.

It is not merely a financing problem, as claimed by Ontario physicians, but also a matter of properly using our medical resources. In my opinion, this Government's challenge is not only to make cuts for the purpose of possibly reducing the deficit or transferring to the provinces its budgetary burden, but to move forward and show leadership to help enhance our health care system in Canada.

[English]

I do not see that leadership at the moment. What I see is a Finance Minister who is intent on passing along his deficit problems on to the backs of the poor and on to the backs of our senior citizens, who will undoubtedly pay the price with restricted hospital services and restricted access to medical care.

● (1910)

He is intent on paying the price on the backs of our young people who will find themselves with a situation in the nineties that was all too prevalent in the fifties, when only the children of the very wealthy had an opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education. The sixties and the seventies in Canada saw some tremendous social and economic progress. Two of the highlights of that period are, indeed, a first class world class universally accessible health care system, and an educational system at the post-secondary level which has been