

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

medicare. He is not a New Democrat, he is a Conservative. He went across this country on this issue and is saying that this legislation will mean a reduction in the level of services.

Two weeks ago, speaking to *The Financial Post* conference on health, the Minister of National Health and Welfare was asked if these reductions will impact on affordability and accessibility. He replied that of course they will. He admitted that this legislation will reduce accessibility and affordability, and the people of this country should know that. When the legislation gets to committee I am sure we will make that case. We cannot beat the Tory numbers in this House, but I am sure the groups concerned can keep repeating these Tory promises—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret but the Hon. Member's time has expired.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill, as other Hon. Members have said, is to cut back on federal Government transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education and health care. We in the Opposition, along with the people of Canada, must oppose this Bill with all our might. Most of the provinces are doing so even though some of them are run by Conservative Governments. The Conservative Party campaigned during the election on a promise to respect social programs and make them a sacred trust. It is strange that the Conservatives should pick on post-secondary education and health in dealing with the deficit. What they are really doing is transferring the deficit to the provinces.

Education and health, as you know, are the lifeblood of a modern technological state. I look upon money spent by Government on education as an investment, not simply as a transfer payment for welfare or social services. If we are to have a society able to meet competition from the U.S., Japan and the European Common Market, we must have the best trained and most competent people in industry. The only way we are going to do that is by having a first-class educational system at the primary, secondary and post-secondary level. This money which is being cut was not only for universities but also for community colleges, technical schools and others as well. It was to be used to train those people required in a modern technological society.

The other side of the coin here is the issue of health care. Again, if we are going to have a productive, competent nation, we need healthy people. We need people who are able to work without worrying about health problems, especially the financial aspect. I spoke to the amendment to this Bill put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau). I put some arguments on the record against this Bill. I would now like to put on the record some of the things happening in this country outside Parliament, some of the opposition taking place, which I think is important. I do not want people to believe that it is just the Opposition in this

place which is opposing the Bill. There is opposition everywhere in the country. I quote from an article from *Le Devoir* as follows:

[Translation]

—and in the newspaper *Le Droit* on March 14, 1986, and in the article entitled “Three Hundred Students condemn the Cutbacks”, this was written:

Over 300 students from Ottawa and Carleton Universities demonstrated on Parliament Hill yesterday noon to condemn the cutbacks announced by the Conservative Government with respect to the financing of post-secondary education.

[English]

I now quote the following from the Saint John, New Brunswick *Telegraph Journal* of February 21:

● (1420)

The New Brunswick Medical Society has already done everything it can to fight Finance Minister Michael Wilson's proposal to trim federal support of provincial medicare, says society president Dr. Paige Emenau.

In anticipation of the legislation Wilson brought to the House of Commons last Friday, medical society officials met in Ottawa early this month and laid out their case to New Brunswick members of the federal Progressive Conservative caucus.

I have another example from the scientific community, and I quote from the Toronto *Star* on February 6 the following:

Funding cuts seen as crisis for our universities. Shrinking Government support for post-secondary education is causing a crisis for Canadian universities, spokesmen for the academic research community have warned.

And they say a federal-provincial conference is needed to resolve the issue before the damage becomes irreparable.

“Research is not a luxury, but a necessity”, Bernard Shapiro, president of the Social Sciences Federation of Canada, told a news conference yesterday.

I have already referred to the medical profession and the scientific community. There are also quotes from the political leaders in our provinces. I have here an article from the Halifax *Chronicle Herald* of January 2. This is an article by Harvey Webber, who is a Sydney, Nova Scotia businessman, a lawyer and a founder of the Atlantic Canada Plus Association. He says the following:

Federal transfer funds allocated ostensibly for health care and post-secondary education alone total approximately \$275 million in this province.

That is Nova Scotia. He continues:

The Atlantic Provinces must be quite clear that reduction of transfer payments for health and education could cost Nova Scotia alone \$70 million a year.

As an Atlantic Canadian, I am alarmed. What are our provincial Governments doing to prevent a reduction in transfer payments? All of us throughout the Atlantic region should clearly express our concern and our alarm to our provincial representatives.

In Quebec—

[Translation]

—as stated in the newspaper *Le Devoir* dated December 18:

The Minister of Finance, Gérard-D. Lévesque, brought pressure to bear on the federal Government “in a general way” and not on specific issues, urging not to transfer its deficit over to the provinces—