

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

Any Member of the House who has done the slightest amount of research on this Bill will know what the Minister of Finance said on this subject. He sits silent right across from me, providing the example for his colleagues in caucus to sit silently, prepared at any moment when I stop speaking to jump to their feet and say: "Aye, aye, sir," to the skipper to pass this Bill. Only a few years ago, and in advance of the last election, in another life, the present Minister of Finance said the following in the House of Commons on March 24, 1982. This is from the Official Report, not the unofficial report, not hearsay, but the actual verbatim words of the Minister of Finance as he stated them in the House of Commons. Mr. Speaker, pick your ears up. Get ready. It is a darned good thing that the Speaker is sitting down because the same Minister who proposes Bill C-96, cutting back health care and education today in this House, ever-ready to find his feet at the moment it comes to vote, said:

Taking the action of unilaterally cutting the financing, which the government is now proposing, and then having some discussions with the provinces, surely puts the cart before the horse. We should be reversing this procedure.

The Minister complained that undertaking this kind of action was putting the cart before the horse. I say to the Minister that to stand in his place on March 24, 1982, and make that kind of statement, and to come to the House today as Minister of Finance with Bill C-96, one would need to have the face of a robber's horse, irrespective of the cart. He would need to have a nerve like a toothache. We have been waiting patiently, diligently, hopefully, to see the Hon. Member find his seat, his knees, his backbone, his courage, his integrity, to come to his feet and to explain to us what great transformation has taken place that has caused such a complete turn-around on the position he was articulating in this House a scant few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, if you did not believe in the philosophy of reincarnation when you came here, you will surely believe in it now, having sat through some of the speeches of Hon. Members. Some of these Members have callouses on their tongues. Having sat through some of the flip-flops made by Members opposite, and in particular Ministers, you now believe in the philosophy of reincarnation, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance, according to his own philosophy, has been reincarnated as a Canadian—is it ogre? I read my little girl fairy tales from time to time. There is a character who is a big, mean, nasty, brutish, insensitive character who is not aware of the ramifications of his actions.

**Mr. Nunziata:** The troll!

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that I would much prefer this evening to be home with my little girl. She is five years old and, traditionally, I try to get home and read her a bedtime story. I am sure in the final analysis, given the will of this brutal majority, this reckless majority, this out-of-control majority, this insensitive majority, this dictator-like majority, that it may be just as well I did stay home because they will finally have the Bill. Ordinarily, I would like to stay home and read her her story.

The reason I am not there is that while she will miss my story-telling talents this evening, I am here trying to ensure, not for tomorrow's headlines and not for today's—there is much too much of that type of concern in this place—that down the road as she goes through what is now Canada's educational system that the quality of the system shall be retained. I do this so that when she is 10 years old, 15 years old, 20 years old, this country will not have stripped away from her before she was old enough to realize it the great heritage that our fathers and forefathers built and passed on to us.

In conclusion, I believe that we have been passed a great gift in our health system and in our education system. It was passed to us with no strings attached, bar one. That is the responsibility to enhance, to protect those great gifts, and to pass them along to our children. That we surely cannot do if Bill C-96 passes this House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Are there questions or comments? The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway).

**Mr. Redway:** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, I have repeated this question previously to other members of the Opposition and, indeed, to the Hon. Member himself earlier today when he spoke on the same subject and gave the same speech. This is the thirteenth day in which the House of Commons has debated Bill C-96. In fact, the Hon. Member's speech was the one hundred and twenty-fourth speech that was given in relation to this Bill.

**Mr. Nunziata:** How many Liberals and how many Tories?

**Mr. Redway:** As I indicated, the Hon. Member has spoken at least twice in the debate, once earlier this morning when his remarks were very similar if not identical to the remarks he has just made. I would like to put to him the same question. I am sure he will agree that if he can make the same speech twice in the House of Commons on the same day, then I can put to him the same question in the House of Commons on the same day. Unfortunately, the Hon. Member was unable to answer my question this morning. Having had some time to reflect, perhaps he will be able to answer it now.

Is it not better that the transfer funding for health care and post-secondary education to the provinces be increased by a greater amount than inflation, as this Bill and this Government is doing, than was done by the previous Liberal Government which transferred payments which were actually 5 per cent less than the rate of inflation? Is that not a better way of doing it?

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member points out that this is the thirteenth day of debate and that mine was the one hundred and twenty-fourth speech. When the history of this time period is written, these days will be called "13 days for Canada". When the index is filled in with respect to who stood up during those 13 days for Canada—and I suspect it will be 14, 15 and 16 days—with some distinction the Hon. Member will be able to say that while he was not able to defend this