

We have been living in a cloud cuckoo-land. This Government wants to accentuate that.

● (1230)

This Bill will result in a reduction of payments to the provinces. I will not read the table I have before me which shows how the post-secondary entitlements are divided on the basis of Bill C-12. However, there will be a reduction of roughly \$120 million in 1983-84 and \$260 million in 1984-85.

The federal Government is going to cut back on its cash allotment. For a measly \$118 million, the Government of Canada unilaterally proposes to amend an agreement entered into bona fide by all the provinces. This is supposed to be the spirit of Confederation. Any agreement may be torpedoed if the administration of the Government of Canada deems that it is to its advantage to do so.

I find this Bill totally repugnant and not in the spirit of our Confederation. Along with our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and any number of other Ministers, the lackeys and hacks are writing here, speaking there, praising this administration for having brought to Canada a Constitution which outlines the rights and responsibilities of the Government of Canada and the governments of the provinces. They are established as a right. They enter into agreements on behalf of the people of Canada, who are the same people whether they are administered under federal laws in certain fields or provincial laws in other fields.

Any agreement entered into by the Government of Canada with the provinces, and we have seen any number of them, may be unilaterally amended by a supine majority in this House. It simply has to suit the centralizers, whether it be the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin), who is right up there in the front, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and any others, as well as their support mandarinates. It is they who shall have the say. We find the acolytes on the Government side merely applauding and saying "Amen, amen". That is the Government of Canada? No, Mr. Speaker. I hope this House will rise and unite in voting against this Bill.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member comes from the Province of Alberta. We have not had the opportunity of hearing from Government speakers. I was wondering if the Hon. Member has the opportunity to discuss with provincial treasurers from time to time whether the provinces ever agreed to this division of the block fund with 67.9 per cent for health and 32.1 per cent for education. It is difficult to find out what the Government knows about the provinces agreeing to this breaking up of the block fund. Has the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) had the opportunity to discuss with provincial treasurers whether they agreed to have the block fund set out in the Fiscal Arrangements Act split into the health fund and post-secondary fund?

#### *Established Programs Financing*

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, I have had limited discussions with the provincial treasurer of the Province of Alberta and some of his colleagues. Since *Hansard* is a document which enters into the home, I would not put the language that was used on the record. It is the same position, the same as in 1977. The federal Government uses its leverage on the have-not provinces which dare not object for fear that there will be further penalties imposed. The Provinces of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia object to this single-handed amendment of agreements entered into bona fide over the years. My colleague from Bow River (Mr. Taylor) was a member of the Alberta Government for many years. He will recall the spirit that motivated the previous Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act. We did not have any of this one-sided truck that we have today.

I recall when medicare was brought in by the administration of Lester B. Pearson. It was the boast of the then Minister of National Health and Welfare, I think the late Judy LaMarsh, and also of the Prime Minister, that the Government of Canada would assume 50 per cent of the costs. Alberta, which had an efficiently functioning system of medical services insurance, MSI, was finally jaw-boned and pressured to join the system despite the fact it felt that it had a more efficient system.

● (1240)

I wish the clock could be turned back because the present day system of health care is now controlled by the cost accountants. This is true not only at the federal Government level, which says it is going to control the administration of health care, but also in the provinces. Hospital administrators and doctors who occupied positions of responsibility in the hospitals will tell you some of the horror stories inflicted upon either the medical profession or the hospitals, all under the heading of controlling costs. The Government of Canada, through the block funding program and the changes which have occurred, has reduced its contributions to medicare. In Alberta, Mr. Speaker, two or three years ago it was down to 38 per cent. One can understand why there is resentment, but none of those people across the way, certainly not the Minister, will have to explain why the Government of Canada has reduced its contributions. The net result is control by the cost accountants and the poor Canadian who requires health care is at the end of the line. If there are going to be any further cuts, Mr. Speaker, you and I know who is going to pay for them.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) is an outstanding and highly respected lawyer as well as a parliamentarian. When medicare was first enacted in this country, the responsibility for health care under our Constitution was and still is that of the provinces. As the Hon. Member just said, the federal Government entered into an agreement with the provinces where it would pay 50 per cent of the costs of medicare and hospitalization. Now, instead