

to reduce the deficit that is your goal, but why, pray tell, pick on the senior citizens and then almost in the same breath give away to the wealthy in society what will amount to millions and millions of dollars over the foreseeable future? That is not economic justice, Mr. Speaker. It is cruel and insensitive. I submit that the Government in introducing Bill C-96 is being unjust and unfair. In effect it is once again attacking the disadvantaged in society, those I suppose who are least able to speak for themselves.

If there ever was a sacred trust, Mr. Speaker, that sacred trust is health care and education in Canada. Each and every one of us in this House and every Canadian from coast to coast has come to appreciate the level of health care and post-secondary education because it is second to none in the world. We have the best system anywhere and we ought to be extremely proud that regardless of where one lives in Canada, whether in a region that is economically prosperous or in a region that is economically poor, we are entitled by virtue of the fact that we live in this beautiful country to a certain level of education, a high quality of education. It does not matter whether one is born to riches or to rags, every young person is entitled to that quality of education. Likewise, it does not matter where one lives in Canada, what occupation or what vocation one has in life, whether a politician or a truck driver, we are entitled to a very high quality of health care. Those are basic, fundamental and sacred trusts. Any attempt by Government, or for that matter anyone, to derogate from those rights or to diminish the quality of health care or post-secondary education should be dealt with in a very forceful way. Yet here we have the Government of Canada, the Conservative Government that plays a major role ensuring the sacredness of that trust, ensuring equality of health care and education, introducing Bill C-96.

What is the impact of Bill C-96? Over the next five years, the provinces and territories will receive \$8.1 billion less than they otherwise would receive were it not been for Bill C-96. This Bill is meant to transfer the deficit from the federal Government to the provincial Governments. Over the next five years \$8.1 billion will be cut. If one looks at the reduction in the various provinces, for example in the province where I reside, just under \$3 billion less will be going to the provincial Government from the federal Government in Ontario for health care and post-secondary education.

We know the problems that already exist in the Province of Ontario concerning health care and post-secondary education. I would suggest it is a legacy of the previous Conservative Government in Ontario. Is it any wonder that the good people of Ontario turfed out those Tories a year ago. That Government dared to threaten the quality of health care and post-secondary education in that province. Over the next five years Ontario will receive \$2.9 billion less. If the Government of Ontario is to maintain the quality of health care and post-secondary education which exists in Ontario, it will have to come up with an additional \$3 billion in revenue over the next five years.

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

• (1130)

Mr. Nixon, the Treasurer of Ontario, will be asking how that can be done. As a result of Bill C-96 he has some very tough decisions to make. The Province of Ontario can either increase taxes by \$3 billion over the next five years or it can cut services. It would have to cut in the area of health care and post-secondary education. That could be done by reducing the number of hospital beds or the level of research and development in the hospitals and universities. Class sizes could be increased and teaching staffs could be paid less. However, that is not acceptable. There is already a desperate shortage of financing for those particular areas in the Province of Ontario.

We in Ontario consider ourselves fortunate even though we are in a most difficult situation with regard to health care and post-secondary education. Notwithstanding that the quality is second to none, the costs increase yearly. If one is to maintain or increase that quality, which should be a goal of government, there must be a commitment and the political will to ensure it. We in Ontario will suffer tremendously under this Bill. Ontario has often been referred to as a "have province". What will the impact be on the "have not" provinces, the provinces which, because of regional disparities and other factors, are suffering more than the have provinces with regard to economic renewal?

What about Atlantic Canada? The Province of Newfoundland suffers from one of the highest unemployment rates in Canada and has some very serious financial problems. Over the next five years it will receive \$200 million less than it would if the present agreement were honoured. Prince Edward Island will receive \$41 million less than it would otherwise have received. Nova Scotia will receive \$283 million less over the next five years. New Brunswick will receive \$229 million less. Every province and region of Canada will suffer as a result of this Bill. The provinces are crying out to the Government of Canada that this is not fair. They are also saying that the Government has reneged on a contract. It has breached an agreement to increase federal transfer payments by 7.5 per cent.

When the Government took office two short years ago the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) told the people of Canada that there was a new era of federal-provincial relations and national reconciliation. You must recall those words, Mr. Speaker, because they are still ringing in the ears of every Premier in Canada. The Government said that it would consult before it acted. It said that, unlike the Liberal Party of the past, it would consult rather than acting unilaterally. That is what was said.

Mr. Gormley: That is what they do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nunziata: That is what was said, but what do they do? What happened to the consultation and the new era of national reconciliation? The Government unilaterally imposed these cuts and restrictions. Given the Government's pronouncements