

ment in which to teach the future engineers who would lead the effort to strengthen and build the Canadian economy. The faculty was now being treated as a recruiting ground for the "Silicon Valleys" of North America and other parts of the world. The university had done the preliminary selection of top people in the field, had not given them tenure or good salaries, and essentially had done untenable things to these people because of a complete lack of funding. Industry siphoned these people off at a tremendous rate by offering them benefits, and they were gone.

In short, Mr. Speaker, because of the short-sighted and destructive attitude reflected in this Bill, Governments, federal or provincial, gutted the very foundation on which the future of this nation is based. It is not just electrical engineers; this happened in a whole host of fields. They have been torn to pieces by this attitude. We are going to six and five ourselves out of position in the world economy. It is no wonder the Japanese are light years ahead of us. It is no wonder that the Americans are retooling their industrial base. They will eventually be light years ahead of us. Ultimately we will be left in the backwash, as my colleagues have pointed out, as hewers of wood and carriers of water, without a hope of getting anywhere near the leading edge of industrial development, all because this Bill guts our opportunities and the Government fails to carry its fair share of the burden.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, wish to say a few words on the legislation before the House, Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act.

This legislation is intended to impose the six and five regime of which the federal Government is so proud and which has been, hopefully on their part, a basis for recovering the lost popularity the Liberals have encountered in the polls over the last couple of years. Even though this legislation was introduced in this House just a few short days ago, it has been in effect in this nation for over a year. The cutbacks in the federal contribution to post-secondary education have hurt every institution of learning beyond high school in this nation. Programs have been cut. Faculties have been pared. Enrolments have been limited. Tuition fees have been increased. There is a crisis in education at this time, and it will only grow thin coming fall.

I have noticed, as I am sure you have, Mr. Speaker, that there is a growing controversy in this Province over whether we cut the quality of education or limit enrolment to select students. That is the debate going on in this Province right now, and I suspect it is going on throughout this nation. My home Province of Manitoba is having a similar debate. Even though the Government in that Province has increased funding over the last couple of years well beyond six and five to its post-secondary institutions, they are facing this fall the long-term effect of federal Government cutbacks.

Our provinces are not in a financial position to carry on the battle themselves. They need the support of the fiscal powers of this federal Government. They need this support to keep post-secondary education alive. They need the financial sup-

port of the federal Government if we are going to continue our research and development. They need this support if they are to continue programs which open up the universities to groups of people who are not there at this time.

Other Members from the Province of Manitoba have mentioned the programs at Brandon University which enable native students to become teachers. Similar programs are being developed to help native people become involved in nursing, social work and other areas of endeavour. It is no secret to the people of this House that for many years native people were virtually excluded from universities and other post-secondary institutions in this country. It has taken money as well as a commitment from the Manitoba provincial Government to initiate a program where institutions of higher learning have become accessible to native students. But programs of that nature are threatened by this legislation in front of us today. Universities are trying to maintain the bare bones of an educational system. Faculties such as the faculty of science at the University of Manitoba are starting to limit enrolment. They are doing that because of the legislation in front of us today, and for other reasons as well. Over 20 per cent of the young people of this nation cannot find employment. Many young people are looking at the universities and post-secondary institutions in terms of spending their time there picking up some more years of education and training, hoping that the job market will improve in the future.

● (1640)

That is not an answer to the unemployment problem, Mr. Speaker, but it is a logical thing for young people to be doing. These young people have the choice of seeking employment when it is so scarce, going to university, or suffering the experience of being unemployed in the first few years, and maybe for many years, of their working lives. These young people will not have the benefit of experiencing the work ethic in the first formative years of their adult life. They are going to find it very difficult to adjust to our society in the future. If you have not worked for the first three, four or five years of your adult life, getting and retaining a job in the future will be that much more difficult. In the meanwhile, many have entered universities and other post-secondary institutions. I think it is of benefit for each of those who do that.

However, at the very time that they are entering the universities and other post-secondary institutions, this Government is saying, "Hold on, we do not want to provide adequate financing for those institutions". A 5 per cent increase in the amount of money that comes from the federal Government for post-secondary education is really no increase at all. It is less than no increase when you realize that enrolment is increasing. It is less than no increase when you realize that the universities, like everyone else, have to face the costs of inflation.

The reason I am concerned about this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is that it is going to hurt those Canadians who can least afford it. I, as have many in this Chamber, have read John Porter's *The Vertical Mosaic*, which speaks of the fact that our universities and post-secondary institutions have been