

the point that Ministers do not even know what is going on in their Departments.

Because of this squeeze on government funds, and because of the disastrous effect of the national energy policy and the resulting drying up of funds that were sustaining this massive bureaucracy in power, the Government is seeking every way it knows to wring out the last dollars from the local taxpayer. It affects the local taxpayer. If education and health care systems cannot be supported as per the original agreement, local Governments will have to go to the local tax base to sustain the present levels.

Some of the programs that exist within the Government now should be cut back. There is no businessman or single individual who operates from a budget in this country who does not understand the massive overspending by the federal Government. There is massive unemployment across the country, Mr. Speaker. It is criminal to see these people coming into the constituency offices in my riding, as I am sure is happening in all the ridings in Canada, asking how they can get training so they can get a job. At a time when there is an unprecedented number of young, middle-aged and older people requesting entrance to post-secondary education in order to retrain, we are cutting back on funding to these very institutions. This is totally ridiculous. This is the time when we should be taking some of the money which we are paying people to stay at home because there are not any jobs, either through welfare or unemployment insurance, and putting it into the post-secondary education system which gives individuals another chance at getting out into the job market when the economy does turn around.

It was not four years ago, Mr. Speaker, that in my riding we actually had recruiting teams from various companies and school boards going to Europe and Asia seeking qualified people to come to Canada to fill jobs Canadians could not fill. Now that unemployment has gone so high our people could fill those jobs if they were properly trained four or five years from now, if and when this Government is thrown out of office and the country gets moving again. We will need those trained personnel.

Instead the Government brings in an Act, Mr. Speaker, to reduce the funding from the federal Government to the provinces. As I said before, it is unilateral action. The provinces have not had the opportunity to sit down with the Minister to point out the problems which exist in the hinterland provinces that this legislation is going to affect. It is not only going to affect the hinterland provinces; it is going to reduce the funding to Quebec by 30.9 per cent and it is going to reduce the funding to Ontario by 41.7 per cent.

Members opposite are going to support this Bill because they act like sheep. They jump when the whistle is blown. They are here in their seats and they stand row upon row supporting a Bill which they know is not correct. If they think for a moment they will realize that people do not want to be unemployed. People who are unemployed today are seeking ways of getting out of this situation. Those same people are lining up at the post-secondary institutions begging to get in.

#### *Established Programs Financing*

They are told there is not enough money because Manpower did not buy enough places in the institutions for them to receive further training or retraining.

Technology is advancing so rapidly in our country and in the world that we have to keep on top of it by putting more money in. Technology is advancing the kind of health care we can give to our senior citizens. We have to put more money into that. We have to care for the people who built this country and who are now in senior citizen homes and chronic care homes. They sit and reflect on the good things they have done and sacrificed to provide us a better living. This is not a time for the federal Government to move unilaterally against the provinces, to become like Scrooge and not allow the post-secondary institutions to be funded as they properly should.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

• (1230)

**Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak, even this briefly, on Bill C-12, and Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977.

Among other things, the Bill provides in the fiscal years 1983-84 and 1984-85 that the increase in the federal Government's per capita contribution to the cost of post-secondary education will not exceed 6 per cent the first year and more than 5 per cent the second year. In other words, the Government is clamping an enormous, heavy lid on expenditures for universities and community colleges in Canada.

This so-called restraint will have a devastating impact on higher education across the entire country. The federal Government's contributions will be limited to well below the level of funding required by the institutions affected, given the real escalating costs they are facing.

We in the Progressive Conservative Party are greatly in favour of restraint in the federal Government. Indeed we have been urging restraint on the Government for many years, ever since it began to stack up multibillion dollar deficits one year after another. But in this case it is a national scandal and disgrace that the Government is paying lip service to the principle of restraint on the backs of the young men and women in Canada who are trying to get the education and training they will require in the work force of tomorrow. The Government can find hundreds of millions of dollars for bail-outs of its corporate friends at Dome Petroleum, Massey-Ferguson and Maislin Trucking. But the same Government refuses to allow our badly underfunded education system the money it needs to produce the highly trained manpower for the country. Those are strange priorities—bizarre in the extreme.

For the small provinces and universities in Canada, the implications are especially disastrous. The fact is that in the Atlantic provinces about 80 per cent of university operating income is provided by government each year in the form of operating grants. The remainder comes from tuition fees and other sources, such as endowments and gifts. When govern-