

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

we consider the needs which exist now among Canadians for health care and post-secondary education, when we realize just how necessary research is today, how important university teaching and research are, I just cannot see how the Government can foresee any long term growth for Canada if it does not provide young Canadians with the funding that is required to offer them this kind of education services.

Mr. Speaker, as far as health services are concerned, it's a fact that in all provinces—it's true for Quebec, Ontario and all the other provinces—there is not an excess but rather a shortage of hospital beds. The Ontario Premier has even informed the people in his province that because of the federal Government's decision, they will have to cut 75,000 beds. Mr. Speaker, I say that there is more involved here than the need to reduce the deficit. That is an in-depth analysis of the services which I deem essential, the financing of which we should review at this time on a more permanent basis, together with a more constant federal commitment. Because, when the provinces accepted the change from the previous system to the new one that was incorporated in the 1977 legislation, they had taken for granted that the federal Government would assume its responsibility for a long enough period of time to allow them to plan accordingly. This Bill, like a bull in a china shop, completely disrupts the planning of the provinces and forces them to assume the costs all by themselves or else to reduce in an unjustified fashion the quality of the service they are offering to the Canadian people.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions and comments until 1.06 p.m. The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Côté) has the floor.

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides whether the arithmetic he used when he was the president of a bank was the same as the arithmetic he is using here. In the House, the Hon. Member showed that he juggles his figures the same way he did in the Quebec National Assembly when he was Minister of Finance. Of course that is because of the deficits he piled up in Quebec, and now he would like to continue along those lines and follow the example of his predecessors.

I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides whether he remembers learning addition and subtraction in the second and third grade. Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about an increase of \$25 billion between 1986-86 and 1990-91—maybe he doesn't know what a billion is but \$25 billion is 2,500 million—is that more or is that less? Is the Canadian Government going to give more or is it going to give less to the provinces? What the Minister of Finance has suggested is a moderated increase. Between 1985 and 1990, is that more or is that less, Mr. Speaker? Thank goodness the Hon. Member is not a member of Cabinet, because we would never get around to reducing the deficit and this country's debt. Things would go on exactly the same way they did under the Hon. Member's predecessors and when he was in Quebec.

Mr. Garneau: Mr. Speaker, I could get into a discussion with the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean, but it is obvious that he wears blinders and can only see the deficit. What I can tell him is that the formula prescribed in the 1977 Act and amended by Bill C-96 provided that provincial transfers for post-secondary education and health care programs would increase at the same rate as the Gross National Product. This is what the provincial governments used to plan ahead and develop their five-year plans. There is one thing that we must not forget, and that is that, as far as health care is concerned, and I imagine that it is still the case, when I was at the Quebec Provincial Assembly which I left a number of years ago, there were five-year plans for the development of hospital care, of senior citizens' homes, and everything else in the social field. Today, after certain decisions have been made . . . Let us take for instance, the most recent decisions of the provincial government as concerns emergency services, which are overcrowded in most Quebec hospitals, and it is probably the case elsewhere. The provincial government made its decision in the belief that the Fiscal Arrangements Act would remain unchanged, and at the time, the Act provided for transfers based on the rate of growth of the Gross National Product. Now, the provinces have been told that it will be based on the GNP minus two. If that is not a cutback, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. It being 1:06 p.m., I do now leave the Chair until 2 o'clock this day.

At 1:06 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

VISIBLE MINORITIES**INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II—NEWSPAPER REPORT**

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, a report in *The Toronto Star* on Friday suggests that Cabinet may soon be announcing a government response to the issue of Japanese-Canadian redress. I have had an opportunity of discussing this proposal with the President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. It is absurd and surprising to find that the association has no idea of this imminent proposal. Again it is on the outside looking in.

I find it simply absurd, because here is a Government which said it would actually consult and negotiate with this particular association in order to formalize an agreement. To a certain degree, but on a different level, history is again repeating itself in that we have a Government which is