

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

is a wall over there that has been built under the Whip of a Party that has told its Members, "You shall not have a mind of your own. You shall play the game". So, is it any wonder that we hear back-benchers on the government side referred to as "surfers", those who surfed in with the tide and those who shall surf back out again in a few years?

The Government of Canada is saying it wants to save some money. It wants to reduce the deficit. It wants to restore fiscal responsibility to the federal Treasury. It told us when its Members were elected that it would identify fat in the federal system and would trim it. I have been standing in my place with bated breath waiting for some Hon. Member opposite to stand up and parade before the House and the people of Canada that long list of scurrilous fat that they have found in the federal system and describe how they have restored responsibility to the fiscal policy of the Government of Canada. What is the list? Health care, education, period. The Government of Canada is not cutting away fat. It is not even cutting away muscle. No, the blade has sliced down deep into the bone and it is bleeding away the marrow. Just as the marrow in one's bones is necessary to rejuvenate the body and keep it healthy, so too are adequate health care and education systems necessary to the body politic of this nation to keep us world-competitive.

The Government has found a new definition for fiscal responsibility. It is called transferring the federal debt out of Ottawa and on to the backs of the poorest provinces in the country. The Government has reduced the deficit by transferring its deficit and its responsibility on to provincial Governments. And, Mr. Speaker, there is not even a whimper from Hon. Members opposite. They do not have the courage to stand and speak their minds and defy this Bill. They do not have the integrity, if lacking the courage, to defy it, to stand and oppose it.

In my own Province of Newfoundland, with 30 per cent unemployment, a province that is one of the poorest in this country, citizenship, being a Canadian, already has two definitions. There is a first-class Canadian and a Newfoundlander. There is a first-class Canadian and a Cape Bretoner; a first-class Canadian and a Quebecer who lives in the Gaspé; a first-class Canadian and someone in Ontario who lives in the North. In my own province, where we fit into that category, Bill C-96 will cut \$187 million out of the health and education system.

So that Hon. Members opposite are not carried away by the glitter of the chandeliers in this place, and by the splendour of the marble, and by the fine woodgrain on these lovely desks they provide us in this place, let me tell them what we mean when we speak of the education system in Newfoundland. We speak of a little school in the community of Flower's Cove. In order to ensure that a handful of handicapped students would not have to be bused four hours a day to receive an education, members of the community struck up their own concerned citizens committee to raise the funds to graft a little classroom

on the side of an existing schoolhouse, doing the work themselves, to give 12 handicapped students the chance to grow up in their own community, the chance to be educated with their brothers and sisters. Why? It was because the Government of Newfoundland said, "The money simply isn't there".

In my own Province of Newfoundland, Memorial University has built a first-class medical school. It has been able to begin to develop world-class skills, and professors. That medical faculty has become nothing but a rating school for other institutions which are able to offer those same teachers a minimum of 25 per cent more in salaries, and they are disappearing off the island.

What do we talk about when we talk about health care? This morning in my constituency office, a gentleman called me, a Dr. Jacobs, who has only been in this country a handful of years and who has lived and worked in northern communities. He told me, "You must oppose the Bill because, my friend, in those northern rural communities the quality of health care that your constituents are receiving is already third rate, and that is in advance of the additional \$187.7 million worth of cut-backs". This gentleman is a specialist who lives and works in Newfoundland, even though he receives substantially less in salary. He will stay as long as he is able to find the tools to commit himself, to dedicate himself to his field. He will not leap across the gulf in order to obtain a higher salary. But as a specialist he wants to know that the tools will be there in the hospital to serve his patients. This \$187 million cut seeks to consign my Province, not only in terms of the medical care being offered and the quality of the personnel available but in the quality of the new technologies evolving in the medical field, as a museum piece of the health care system. That is not good enough.

● (1620)

What I find tragic is this feeling I have that we as Canadians are talking to a wall, those Members opposite who propose to see this legislation pass before the House adjourns this summer. I have the feeling that the words I have spoken, and the words spoken by the Premiers, by the Canadian Medical Association and by the Canadian universities, are nothing more than an echo that bounces unreceived off the walls of this Chamber. I say that because Members opposite are not listening. The price of listening is the exposure of raw nerves, because gentlemen opposite know that to proceed with this legislation which will cut \$8 billion out of health and education services is to do a great and historical disservice to Canada.

It is a hell of a country we live in when we sit and realize that over five years \$8 billion will be cut out of health and education facilities, and that during that same five-year period, because of a change in the Income Tax Act called the capital gains provision, \$8 billion will be paid out to the wealthiest Canadians. Is that not an incredible paradox? In the same Budget in which the Government has indicated that it is seeking the \$8 billion cut-back in investment in our youth, and for our sick and our senior citizens, it has announced an \$8