

*Established Programs Financing*

suggest that this particular measure which the Government now has before the House will do exactly that. It will have a serious effect on able-bodied kids, and it is having a serious effect as well on universities, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap), mentioned this afternoon. It will have an even greater impact on those individuals who are already deprived and disadvantaged in our society.

I urge the Government to consider seriously what it is doing here and I ask government Members who, in good conscience, cannot support this Bill, to stand up and help the Opposition to defeat it.

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, for a few moments I would like to follow what my colleague, the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young), said. I am a parent of a hearing impaired child and it is interesting to remark on the horrendous difficulties which these kids, and my daughter in particular, have faced over the years through the education system by the tremendous difficulties which are put in their way. Every single year in the school system there have been difficulties. My daughter has had tremendous difficulties in breaking into a system which is geared to serve only a certain group of individuals. My daughter happens to be a bright, above average kid, well co-ordinated and very determined. She has had a great deal of difficulty, but over the years has managed to overcome those difficulties and do reasonably well in school to the point where she is likely to be able to go to university. She has also developed at this stage an interest in flying, since I am involved in flying and have instructed people over the years. She is very well co-ordinated and has more guts than Dick Tracy. In fact, she would be a good pilot if she were eligible for her licence. Unfortunately, she found out to her bitter disappointment that she does not qualify for her licence because of her hearing disability.

My daughter wished to become a nurse, having certain role models in the form of individuals whom she admires greatly. She is very interested in that particular field of endeavour, but is now coming to grips with the fact that down the road she, in all probability, will not be able to do that. It is interesting to note that she has achieved almost every level of capability in swimming. She is a tremendous swimmer and has the capability of being a lifeguard or instructor, but has suddenly realized she can no longer look at that field as a possibility for employment because of her hearing impairment.

Universities will present an enormous task to overcome for this kid, but she is intellectually capable of handling it and she has the determination to do so. Unfortunately, what we have today before us is a piece of legislation which will harm my daughter's opportunities to graduate from university and enter a field of endeavour which she is capable of handling.

I wish to thank the Hon. Member for Beaches for putting on the record the kinds of positions which this Party, and I believe other thinking and feeling people in this country, should be addressing. This legislation does not do that.

I am, Mr. Speaker, to say the least, appalled by this legislation. There are a number of areas of discrimination

which go beyond that of the physically handicapped. I would like to deal with some of the areas of my riding. The proposal to cut spending, not to carry a fair share in the spending on post-secondary education, is really a tragic, stupid and unfair thing to do. In the riding I represent at the present time, whether Port Hardy, Powell River, or any point on northern Vancouver Island and the coast of British Columbia, not only does one have to pay rising general university costs, but one is faced with extremely large costs for room and board and other subsidiary costs in obtaining an education. For a great many students there is no employment in that area, no opportunity for young people to acquire the kinds of funds which not only would allow them to face the rising costs which are being imposed at the university level, but to allow them to pay room and board and transportation and the other requirements. This Bill greatly discriminates against people from those communities. There are a large number of students in the lower mainland of Vancouver, for example, who now live at home, who are funded by their parents and who only address the question of the direct costs of university books, upkeep and clothing, which are expensive enough. However, the minute you move beyond commuting distance, there are an enormous number of young people who just have no hope of being able to afford university. Nor do they have the opportunity to go to vocational or technical school, or any of the other institutions, and it is getting extremely difficult for them.

• (1630)

There is no need to repeat the horrendous unemployment figures. In areas like Powell River, Port Alberni or Campbell River there is just no opportunity for young people to gain employment, and there they sit. One of the most disappointing things that I see every day when I am in the riding I represent is the young people sitting around in shopping centres doing absolutely nothing. We have an idle generation. Their brains and physical energy are wasted, and the opportunity to make the commitment they should be making to this nation is denied them because this kind of legislation before us today will prevent them from doing it. The discrimination in this legislation, the failure to pick up a fair share of the tab for a very vital function in this country, is just appalling.

I happened to be working on a project with a professor of electrical engineering. He was trying to make a decision. He was one of the lucky individuals who has tenure and a satisfactory salary. His function in life involved a lot of consulting and the teaching of post-graduate students. He enjoyed it very much. The consulting kept him on the leading edge of his field and he was able to convey to his graduate students the kinds of new information they would use to make this country great, or at least to get Canada on the leading edge in certain fields. Essentially he said that he was now faced with the decision to leave all that because industry offered him so much more. They did not have the large class sizes he was being faced with to the point where he could no longer teach graduate students. More and more demands were being placed on his time because of larger class loads, fewer funds available for modern equipment, and in general, a total deterioration of the environ-