

Established Programs Financing

important to other Governments, to individual Canadians, our young Canadians and future young Canadians, that our university system is at a very high level. The most immediate impact, of course, is the reality of U.B.C. expecting a 33 per cent increase in tuition fees. Where is that 33 per cent increase going to come from? Ultimately it is going to have to come out of the pocket of the provinces, and if not the provinces then it must come out of the pocket of the individual student.

What kind of dilemma will the individual student be in when he has a 33 per cent increase in fees passed on to him not by the provincial government but by this Government? The Liberal federal Government of Canada has passed that increase on to the province, who in turn has called for restraint and passed it on to the student. That student is already looking at this 33 per cent increase in the fall. He is asking how he can accommodate that increase when he cannot pay what is already required. He cannot pay his tuition fees because he cannot get a summer job. If he cannot get a summer job to earn the money, how is he in fact going to pay the fees to enable him to go to university?

• (1115)

The problem is compounded by the interaction of government programs. That 33 per cent increase is only symbolic of increases across the country. If you look at the cost of education, British Columbia spends very well on a per student basis compared to other provinces across the country. It is reflected proportionately in every institution of higher learning in Canada. Every time we take these potentially productive students, Mr. Speaker, on whom we have spent a great deal of money just to get them to first, second or third year university, or even to graduation, and then prevent them from developing the potential brain power and turn them back into the service industry or the unemployment line, we damage not only those human beings but the entire structure and future of our nation. That kind of short-sightedness is not the vision Canadians are looking for from this House of Commons. The lack of confidence pervading this nation now is part of the depression. We are sending the wrong signals.

I have great concern, Mr. Speaker, about this particular cycle being set up and the impact it has on our students, our provinces, and on the fabric of Canadian society. I suppose it is again too late. In spite of the fact that Member after Member stands up in our House of Commons, our democracy, and speaks the will of Canadian students, of the Canadian people, we, too, are feeling the sense of frustration and concern that we are not being heard. Canadians are being frustrated in trying to reach out to the Government with a message but the message is not getting through. I look up and see young people sitting around us here today. I see their parents. I am concerned for them and their children.

Ms. Mitchell: What about Social Credit cutbacks for education in B.C.?

Mr. Wenman: Now you see, Mr. Speaker, one of the best points is made right here by the NDP. She is absolutely right;

what about the cutbacks at the provincial level? Why are the provincial governments—not just British Columbia but Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba—cutting back? You can go all the way across the country to the Maritimes and you will find there is a restraint program, cutbacks in education in all those provinces. Why is it common to all provinces? Because it comes from a common source—the federal Government. Those provincial governments have no option but to cut back and then they become the villains. I am ashamed, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP Member is sitting here condemning provincial governments when in fact it is the federal Government which must be taken to task and condemned. This is where her responsibility lies. Let her stand up here and condemn this Government and its program instead of trying to play a political partisan game back in British Columbia or any other province.

Ms. Jewett: They did not pass on a nickel of the increase.

Mr. Miller: Come clean, Bob.

Mr. Wenman: The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that the NDP recognize they have no hope in the House of Commons of Canada. They are still fighting the election back in British Columbia. If they would get off that and speak to the subject here, they would be way ahead. But that is why they are always going to be sitting over there in that little rump, and that is why so many of them have to return to the Province of British Columbia to try and run politically, because there is no future here. Well, there is no future for the NDP there either, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Fulton: You were going to run as a Socred; tell us about that, "Socred Bob".

Ms. Jewett: "Cutback Wenman".

Mr. Crosbie: The three witches from Macbeth.

Mr. Wenman: Boil and bubble, toil and trouble; that is what they are, yes!

Mr. Fulton: At least we are not Socred. At least we are not stupid.

Mr. Wenman: The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that we have a House of Commons which is too much divided by partisanship. It should be keeping its eyes above that horizon and on individual students in every province of Canada. Mr. Speaker, as I stand here today I am speaking on behalf of the Government of Manitoba which is equally concerned with this Bill and with the cutbacks and what this will mean to this NDP Government. I would like to see more money for the—

• (1120)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wenman: —and the NDP Government of Manitoba. I want to see more money for the Conservative Government of Saskatchewan that has to build an educational recovery from