

reduce standards in all the wards in the hospitals because of this NDP anti-labour tax?

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I can say, without qualification, that we at no time did anything which would lower the standards in hospitals or reduce the service to people in hospitals. There was no such tax ever introduced in the Province of Alberta and I do not think there ever will be. Even at the present time when the Minister gave hospitals the right to impose user taxes on the richer people of the communities if they wished to do so, the hospitals have decided not to do this. They will provide excellent service within the realms of their budgets. Throughout the years the policy of the government which I was a part of was to keep the standards of hospital services high and keep the medical men happy in providing service to the people in order to have the best medical service possible for the poorest to the richest people of Alberta. They are all human beings.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment on the last exchange. As we are on the subject of post-secondary education and aid to it, it is interesting to note that Manitoba is the only province in the country which is passing on the full amount of the extra federal funding. In fact, it has added to it, which is totally different from the case history of every other province in Canada.

I, too, enjoy the Hon. Member for Bow River's comments, particularly his story about the Arab and the camel. If the Arab in his story had neglected the tent until it was rotten and tattered and finally thrown on the scrap heap, surely he would not deny the camel that he referred to, or another Arab for that matter, the chance to rebuild it from scratch in order that it again might be used for the purpose for which it was intended, especially if the camel had paid 80 per cent of the cost of the tent or his relatives had provided the hides from which it was built.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot follow the analogy. All of this happened in one night. A tent is not going to disappear in one night. I think the Hon. Member better read the story and get it straight.

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be able to speak on Bill C-12 today. This is an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977. In actual fact, if the title were clearer, it would mean that the federal Government is capping the moneys which will now be used for universities. It means that they are going to set a low limit and universities will have to live within that limit or live without it. It is a closed effort relating to the funding which universities are going to have.

Since I have come to the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, there has been no Bill which more directly affects my constituency of Saskatoon East than this particular Bill. Saskatoon East is built around the University of Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan is an institution which has been there since the time of the pioneers. It has many distinguished graduates all over Canada. The late Right Hon. John Diefen-

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baker, who was a graduate back in 1916 or 1917, lies buried at the University. There are other Members sitting in the House this afternoon who are likewise graduates of the University.

From its beginnings the University of Saskatchewan has been a heartthrob of our part of the world. I actually lived on the University campus for a number of years and when I go and visit the University I am constantly reminded of the fact that, when the pioneers went west in the early days of this century to establish a new land, one of the first things they did was to establish a university. Some old photographs which can be seen in the museums show this little tent city of Saskatoon with a few ramshackle houses and a few actual tents that were erected in the beginnings of the city.

There, on the plains of Saskatchewan, was the beginnings of the University of Saskatchewan. The pioneers marked out an area so that the city would grow around it. The area is still there. It is a green belt within the city. They began to build the University with the grey fieldstones that had come with the glaciers, the stones that were on the top of the prairie land. The University has frequently been referred to since that time as the "Greystones" because it was built out of the very material that nature and history had produced and brought into our particular part of the country.

I would like to speak to this Bill and to the fact that funding is now going to be reduced and cut back for our University. I would like to try to compare the mentality that would do that with the mentality of the pioneers who came and faced the difficulties of setting up a province, founding an agricultural industry on the bare prairie, finding ways to build roads, schools and all those different things. They were still able to see the vision and knew that it was required if Saskatchewan was going to become a fruitful place for Canadians to live. They knew a school or university for higher learning would be needed. I pay tribute to the people who began to build this University.

• (1700)

When dealing with the matter of capping funding for institutions of higher learning, I think it is important to remember that institutions other than universities will be affected. Over the years the Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon has trained many young people in the technical skills that they will require for the future. Such schools are affected by the limit put on funding to universities and institutions for higher education.

Last year the Province of Saskatchewan received an increase of 7 per cent in funding for universities. In fairness, I must say that this was passed on to the University, although apparently that was not true in every part of the country. The Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen), for instance, pointed out in his speech that in British Columbia the increase was not passed on.

There must be co-operation between the federal and provincial Governments to ensure that one of our greatest resources, the educated young person, is looked after. According to a conversation that someone in my office had with an official in the office of the registrar of the University in Saskatoon