

they have to change their budget allocations for, perhaps, the two most important sectors of our economy.

When the provincial Premiers met in Halifax at the last First Ministers' Conference they said it very clearly and unequivocally. They said that they did not want cut-backs in transfer payments to take place. Many of those First Ministers had already planned and allocated monies for their various budgets in terms of health care and education. However, the Government, which had campaigned on this bid of consultation, has once again shown its true colours in that there has been no consultation. That has been said time and time again, not only by the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec but by Premiers of the same political stripe as this Government. I refer Hon. Members to the Premier of New Brunswick and to the First Minister of the Province of Newfoundland. If these measures go through, then these provinces will experience even more difficult times than those which confront them today.

I think I can share with you, Mr. Speaker, just what these cut-backs will mean to my region of Canada. In 1986-87, the reduction to the Province of Newfoundland will amount to \$7.3 million. For the Province of Prince Edward Island the figure is \$1.6 million. For New Brunswick it is \$9 million, and for my Province of Nova Scotia it is \$11.1 million. These are substantial reductions in two areas which every Government since the beginning of Confederation, both provincial and federal, has deemed to be the most important areas involving everyday Canadians. However, the Government, supported and abetted by those Members of Parliament who refuse to take their Government on, are saying to the Provinces of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that the quality of health care the citizens of those provinces have grown to live with will now be worse—substantially worse.

I know there are Members in the Chamber who will say that my comment is one of a partisan nature. However, individual after individual, whether it be the representative from the provincial medical society of New Brunswick, or others, have come before our caucus and shared with us how these cut-backs will affect not only the medical society but the health care of the people of New Brunswick. In the outlying regions of the Province of New Brunswick individuals are without health care. They are without the opportunity which Canadians in every other province deem to be their right. They have been left without those services. We are now saying to them that we will cut them back even more. The situation in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Newfoundland is similar in that these cuts will be very substantial.

In 1987-88, the reduction for the Province of Newfoundland will amount to \$15.5 million. For the Province of Prince Edward Island it will be \$3.4 million, and \$1.2 million for New Brunswick. For my Province of Nova Scotia it will be \$23.6 million.

One must underline the importance of transfer payments. They were introduced not at the whim and prayer of some politician on the hustings at the time, but after major studies

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affecting all of Canada were debated in the House of Commons, in the provincial legislatures and by the public at large. These discussions were to the effect that there was a pressing need for services in education and health care to be equal across the country. They are no longer equal. In the Province of Nova Scotia any individual in post-secondary education today will tell us that he or she is being cut to the bone. To impose additional reductions on these people will make it virtually impossible for them. It will be asking them to row a boat without oars. The situation is becoming extremely difficult in the Atlantic provinces with our diverse and small population there. Nonetheless, it is a population which wants to be educated and wants to have the same opportunities as other regions of the country have. Whether or not we consider the urban centres of Toronto or Montreal, we want the same rights.

These cut-backs will hit the very fibre of the country, something which has been echoed by Premier Pawley of Manitoba. That is what he said at the First Ministers' Conference. He said that they cannot make any more cuts. I hope that, not because of political partisanship on the part of Members opposite or because they want to be politically blind to the realities of 1986, they will take it upon themselves either to visit post-secondary institutions or to view, as I have done firsthand, the various medical services which are not available to rural communities. I am certain that any reasonable man or woman after seeing firsthand what is actually out there will agree that Bill C-96 is discriminatory both in substance and in terms of the effects it will have on all regions of the country.

A former Prime Minister who made an analogy with regard to language and how important it was for Canada to adopt two official languages also said that if regional disparities are not stopped and reversed they are more likely than anything else to destroy the country.

● (1640)

Bill C-96 cuts back on funds going to the Province of Prince Edward Island. In view of the recent election results from that province, I am astounded that Conservative Members of Parliament have not realized that people there do not like the type of Government they are getting under the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

I will conclude by saying this, not for partisanship but for the real benefit of all Canadians wherever they may live: we ought to vote down the provisions of Bill C-96 because it is a Bill that is discriminatory, unfair and un-Canadian.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, it has taken two years longer than we expected to get to the world of George Orwell. It has taken until 1986, but we now have a Government which is trying to call black white and white black. We have a Government which is in fact severely, dangerously and at extreme human cost cutting back the amount of money the provinces expected to receive to pay for very basic human services. Yet this measure is being described by the Government, and particularly the Minister of Finance