

Adjournment Debate

Conservative Party campaign book, and I will read it in English:

• (1600)

[English]

"We would return to the 1977 funding formula, though we cannot compensate the provinces for the 6 and 5 funding losses."

[Translation]

Everybody lost out as a result of the 6 and 5 financing formula proposed by the Liberals. The situation is worse now. The Conservatives promised the exact opposite of what they are doing. They promised regular consultations with the provinces on post-secondary education, another promise, Mr. Speaker, that has been ignored by this terrible Government.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The period for questions and comments is over.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Health—Presence of dioxin in vegetables, fruit and milk; the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson)—National Defence—Request for publication of study on impact of shooting range proposed for Lac Saint-Jean region; the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier)—Administration of Justice—Use of official language of choice—Supreme Court decision. b) Request that the government modify the law—Federal prosecutors to use official language of accused.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that Bill C-96, An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977, be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on Bill C-96. It is very illustrative that in the dying days of this session of Parliament, with Members of Parliament having visions of their summer holidays dancing in their head, we are here debating an important piece of legislation that will be the legacy of the Conservative Government. If the Government has its way, the most important chapter of its brief time in office will not be the one about rotten tuna. It will not be the chapter about the Government's attempt to deindex senior citizens' pensions, as brutal as that was. It will not be the chapter about the globe-trotting cabinet Ministers gallivanting around Europe. It will not be the chapter about the resignation of the former Minister of Defence. It will not be the chapter that illustrates the resignation of the Minister of State for Transport. It will not be the story of the Minister of DRIE and whether or not he talked to his wife, and his subsequent resignation. It will not be the story of the presidential travelling style of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Hercules aircraft that floats along behind him with two vans stuffed full of video equipment to record his every utterance, be it in this country or elsewhere. It will not be the story of the largest personal tax increase in Canadian history that the Government has weighed down on the shoulders of hard-pressed Canadian taxpayers. The legacy of the Government will be none of those short, transitory, media-headline-grabbing items. The legacy of the Government will be the day that Members of Parliament allowed a Draconian measure called Bill C-96, the Bill before us today, to pass this place.

• (1610)

When the historians take that chapter down off the shelf and brush away the dust and try to understand what kind of Parliament it was, what kind of Member of Parliament it was that, indeed, Canadians sent to this place, that could have allowed such a Draconian, short-sighted measure to pass through this House, they will be wanting to know what it was the New Democratic Party of the day had to say, they will be wanting to know what it was the Liberal Party of the day had to say, and they will find a record of what we had to say. But it is tragic that they will not know what it was that Hon. Members opposite had to say.

It is worth noting that government Members are not standing in their places today to defend the Government's initiative that will see some \$8 billion accumulating in the coffers of the federal Government. One would think that any time the Government could pass a financial measure to accumulate \$8 billion in its coffers, Members of Parliament supporting the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada would want to stand in their places and bask themselves in the applause of Canadians saying, "what a brilliant measure they took". Not a single parliamentarian has the backbone, the intestinal fortitude, the integrity, to stand behind this Draconian measure; not one. So, we see a litany of New Democratic Party and Liberal Party speakers standing on their feet, talking, as we say in Newfoundland, to the wall, because there