

*Government Orders*

This will allow us to make agreements with the provinces to in fact collect those taxes. I think that is a very, very important part of the bill.

The bill provides for a generous renewal of the equalization program while maintaining our fiscal responsibility, and in addition by facilitating the mutual administration of taxes between federal and provincial governments. We are just improving our country's tax system as a whole. I think that is very important.

I just want to re-emphasize if I might one of the points that was raised by the parliamentary secretary. We keep hearing about cuts to provinces and that we have cut back on moneys for transfers to provinces and so on. This morning I went through in some detail the transfers to provinces over the period since 1984-85, since the Progressive Conservatives formed the government in Canada. As I go through province by province, the types of increases to the provinces that have gone on over that period of time, I think it is very important that the public understand exactly what those increases are. I am going to take just a moment to go province by province to point out the importance of fiscal transfers to the provinces and how they have grown and continue to grow over this period of fiscal restraint we are in.

• (1210)

For example, major transfers to Newfoundland have grown at an average annual rate of 5.5 per cent since 1984-85 and this year are likely to exceed \$1.4 billion, accounting for about 44 per cent of Newfoundland's revenue.

Major transfers to Prince Edward Island, an annual rate of 5.3 per cent increase per year, likely to exceed \$300 million this year. That is over 40 per cent of P.E.I.'s revenues.

Major transfers to Nova Scotia have grown at an annual average rate of 5.6 per cent since 1984-85, likely to exceed \$1.8 billion this year. This accounts for 43 per cent of Nova Scotia's revenues.

Major transfers to New Brunswick have grown at an average annual rate of 5.7 per cent since 1984-85, expected to total almost \$1.6 billion this year, accounts for about 39 per cent of New Brunswick's revenues.

Transfers to Quebec have grown at an average annual rate of 3.8 per cent since 1984-85, likely to total about \$11 billion this year, accounts for about 31 per cent of Quebec's revenues.

To Ontario, the major transfers have grown at an average annual rate of 6.2 per cent since 1984-85, expected to exceed \$9.9 billion this year and accounts for just over 20 per cent of Ontario's revenues.

Manitoba, we have seen an annual growth rate of 6.6 per cent since 1984-85, expected to exceed \$1.9 billion this year. That accounts for close to 40 per cent of Manitoba's revenues.

To Saskatchewan, it has grown at an average annual rate of 8.3 per cent since 1984-85, the highest of any province, expected this year to exceed \$1.3 billion and accounts for about 27 per cent of Saskatchewan's revenues.

For Alberta—and I know that you are interested in this, Mr. Speaker—the transfers have grown at an average annual rate of 5.2 per cent since 1984-85, expected to exceed \$2.5 billion this year and accounts for about 20 per cent of the revenues for Alberta.

For British Columbia they have grown at an average rate of 4.8 per cent. They expect to total almost \$3.3 billion this year. This accounts for more than 20 per cent of British Columbia's revenues.

For the Northwest Territories it has grown at 7.6 per cent, likely to exceed \$880 million and, of course, accounts for about 80 per cent of the Territories' revenues.

For Yukon it has grown at 8.6 per cent since 1984-85, likely to exceed \$250 million this year and accounts for about two thirds of Yukon's revenues.

Statistics can be extremely boring and no doubt these have proved to be boring. The point I want to make is this. Time after time we hear members of the opposition and provincial premiers moaning and groaning that they are not getting the share of revenue from the federal government that they should get, or that we are destroying medicare—and this is what the opposition says—or we are destroying post-secondary education. Yet we must look at the transfers to the provinces that have gone on year over year over the last period of time and continue to go on. Of course, this year there has been a reassessment. There will be an increase of some \$400 million in one year that is going to the provinces, \$200 million in retroactive and \$200 million per year from there on extra, over and above, under the negotiations that have gone on. It is very plain to see that although the increases have slowed down—and I am not arguing that at all, the increases that the provinces might have