

Routine Proceedings

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Gardiner: Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure to introduce this bill today, which I think is important given the debate in this country on budgets and transfer payments. It is an act respecting fiscal arrangements between the federal government and the provinces.

The purpose of the bill is to impose on the federal government an obligation to ensure that any amounts paid by it pursuant to any new shared cost programs are used in accordance with that particular program.

It is important because of the allegations that have been made, particularly in my province where the Social Credit government uses health and education money to pave highways, and the concern Canadians have over what allowed this to happen, the Liberal's six and five program. This bill ensures some responsibility in this Parliament to Canadian taxpayers that education and health money is spent on education and health.

• (1220)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

An hon. member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion, which was agreed to on the following division:

(Division No. 194)

YEAS

Members

Angus
Funk
Nystrom
Skelly (Comox—Alberni)—7

Butland
Gardiner
Samson

NAYS

Members

nil/aucun

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I declare the motion carried.

Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

* * *

[Translation]

PETITIONS

TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour and the responsibility to present a petition from people residing in Valrita, Harty and Longlac. They are very concerned about a recommendation to do away with the system of tax benefits for northern and isolated areas.

Because of the hardships suffered by northern residents, including a harsh climate, the high cost of living and transportation and a lack of services, they ask with good reason for this recommendation to be thrown out and that the \$2.5 million likely to disappear remain in the riding of Cochrane—Superior.

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, following in the footsteps of my articulate friend and colleague, I am tabling today, pursuant to Standing Order 36, two petitions from residents of Lebel-sur-Quévillon concerning recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas.

The petitioners, who represent an isolated community, are very concerned and reject the recommendations in this report which would result in many lay-offs among other things. They believe that the Canadian government has failed to recognize the harsh reality of their daily life in the North.