

Established Programs Financing

were able to plan their own economy, then the misery, poverty, unemployment and hopelessness of the Depression would not be necessary any longer. They sketched out that dream of full employment, decent medical care and housing, income support for those who could not work, and a decent education for all Canadians, including access to university.

That dream began to make sense to an awful lot of people. They took political action to make that dream come true. Lo and behold, even the Liberal Government, during World War II, began to see the writing on the wall and took some action. The Liberals brought in some welfare state legislation which improved on the primitive unemployment insurance and pension plans introduced some years before. They introduced family allowances. Over the years they brought in a system of medicare. They brought in per capita grants for higher education, later changed to grants to the provinces. But they ignored the economic foundation of the dream. They thought we could have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. They thought the dream could be financed through a branch plant economy, where our manufacturing sector was owned by foreign multinationals. We had a fairly rapid exploitation of our natural resources and sold them off at fire sale rates. For a while it appeared to work. It looked as though the Liberals were indeed able to have it both ways. There could be decent conditions for ordinary Canadians, and at the same time they could continue with a system of capitalism which guaranteed the continued existence of a wealthy elite.

There is an old song, Mr. Speaker, that says the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. A variation of that says that the rich get richer and the poor get Crosbie. I do not wish that for Canadians.

Mr. Keeper: That is a sour note.

Mr. Manly: A sour note, indeed. But the Liberals thought that song was not really necessary. They thought the rich could get richer while the poor got medicare and decent access to higher education, social housing and so on. But that Liberal fraud has now been exposed, Mr. Speaker. We have come to the crunch in our economy. Our branch plant, resource extraction economy has collapsed and the Liberals have had to choose in the last few years between their programs for medicare, higher education and decent housing, and whether or not they were going to continue servicing the rich. It is very obvious that they have chosen the rich.

When we look at the system of tax grants and tax benefits the Liberals have created, some people call it the trickle down theory. I prefer to call it the horse and sparrow theory on the basis that if you give the horse enough oats there is bound to be some oats left in the manure for sparrows that come around later. It does not really work, Mr. Speaker. We have seen the Government cap medicare, cap established program funding, and now, retroactively, they are trying to cap higher education funding.

Our young people face a dual crisis. Right across Canada there is a crisis in higher education. Speaking specifically about British Columbia, I wonder where the Tories from

British Columbia have been. There is such a desperate situation in our province, yet not one Tory from British Columbia has spoken on this Bill. Where are they? In the University of Victoria, Mr. Speaker, the computer sciences program is going to be cut by 50 per cent next year. Computers will be one of the leading edges of the future yet we are cutting funding. The Socreds want to close the departments or faculties of law and human and social development at the University of Victoria. They want to axe the departments of music and theatre. There is going to be no music with the Social Credit Government in British Columbia. There is no music with this present Government of Canada either.

Cutting these funds will only exacerbate the situation, Mr. Speaker. The University of British Columbia has been forced to put a lid on enrolment. All universities right across Canada are suffering from overloaded classes, from crowded laboratories, libraries that do not have adequate facilities to study and which are falling behind in new acquisitions. With larger classes professors do not have time to assign the same number of essays and so the students get less effective teaching. The people who will suffer most from this are young people from working class homes in rural areas. In addition to higher tuition costs, which in British Columbia are going up between 19 per cent and 30 per cent, young people face very high costs for room and board. They cannot even find summer jobs. As one commentator said, young people in British Columbia are going to end up as vassals in their own province.

What are our national goals in higher education, Mr. Speaker? What is the Government doing about them besides cutting off higher education at its very roots? I see you are signalling that my time is up. Can we perhaps call it one o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. Is the House prepared to call it one o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): It being one o'clock, this House stands adjourned until two o'clock p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.