

Established Programs Financing

Ont.	Prescott	Tobin, Richard M.	521.40
Ont.	Prescott	Tobin, Richard M.	180.00
Ont.	Prescott	Tobin, Richard M.	150.00
Ont.	Prescott	Tobin, Richard M.	176.00

● (1210)

[English]

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Parliamentary Secretary, without having actually seen the answer, for at least giving us an answer to question No. 103. Could the Parliamentary Secretary indicate when we might have an answer with respect to question No. 101 dealing with the Prime Minister's trip to Australia and Korea; question No. 102 dealing with his trip to Mexico; question No. 104 dealing with his trip to Algeria; and question No. 105 dealing with the Prime Minister's trip to Washington? I ask this because these questions have been on this or other Order Papers for literally years now. The Prime Minister is taking so many trips that we will want to know the cost of that we have to start catching up at some point.

Mr. Nielsen: Almost as many as André Ouellet.

Mr. Evans: I noted the numbers that the Hon. Member has put forward and I will check into them. I am sure they will be responded to at the earliest possible date.

[Translation]

Mr. Evans: I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS*[English]*

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS
AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING ACT,
1977**

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Roy MacLaren (for the Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to bring certain fiscal transfers to the provinces into conformity with the government's anti-inflation program, the "six and five" program. As a result of this Bill, federal assistance to each province for post-secondary education will be increased by 6 per cent in 1983-84 and by an additional 5 per cent in 1984-85. Other federal transfer payments to the provinces will not be affected. In particular, transfers in respect of hospital insurance and medical care will continue to grow in line with the increases in Canada's Gross National Product, which has become known as the GNP escalator.

Hon. Members will agree that the six and five program has contributed substantially to the reduction in the rate of inflation in Canada. Since the program was announced more than 18 months ago, the annual rate of inflation had declined from 11.2 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Blenkarn: Nonsense.

Mr. MacLaren: Hon. Members will recognize that it is desirable to ensure that the benefits of the six and five program are as pervasive through our economy as it is possible to make them.

Hon. Members may note first that we are changing the title of the Act. Formerly it was the "Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977". In the hope of clarifying the purposes of the Act the title is now being changed to the "Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977".

Ms. McDonald: That should help students a lot.

Mr. MacLaren: The purpose of this change is to clarify the fact that the federal Government contributes huge amounts to the provinces. Over \$13.5 billion was contributed for 1983-84 to assist the provinces in financing post-secondary education and health programs. Hon. Members will agree, I am sure, in light of the huge transfers, that it is fitting for the title of the Act to recognize explicitly the areas to which such federal contributions are directed.

As I have noted, Mr. Speaker, the federal transfers under these arrangements are immense. In 1982-83, over \$12 billion was transferred to the provinces. For 1983-84 over \$13.5 billion, and for 1984-85 over \$14.7 billion will be transferred. Federal transfers to the provinces to assist them in financing post-secondary education is one of the four component programs. For the 1982-83 fiscal year over \$3.7 billion was transferred to the provinces for post-secondary education. For 1983-84 almost \$4 billion will be transferred, and in 1984-85 some \$4.2 billion. Accordingly, the amounts transferred for post-secondary education will grow by over \$263 million in 1983-84 after this Bill has been passed, and by an additional \$239 million in 1984-85.

Federal support for post-secondary education has brought significant benefit since this program began in 1967. Over the years the national Government has also introduced other