

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

● (1900)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** The Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mrs. Sparrow), a few seconds.

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, the intent of the Hon. Member's motion is commendable. However, I am struck by the complexity of implementing the proposal for paying Canada Pension Plan benefits to persons not making contributions to the plan. It is also proposed that payments should be in proportion to the time such persons dedicate to voluntary efforts in community social services. In order to look at the CPP as a vehicle for implementing the Hon. Member's motion, we first need to consider the purpose of the plan and some of the ways in which it works.

The purpose of the CPP is to replace a portion of employment earnings, the major source of income for most Canadians, in the event of retirement, disability or death. Virtually every worker between the ages of 18 and 65, in the paid labour force, whether an employee or self-employed, working full-time or part-time, is required by law to make contributions to the plan. The important point I want to make is that it is a mandatory social insurance scheme. It is also a pension plan in the true sense of the word. It is a mechanism for replacing employment earnings for wage workers and their families when those earnings are lost because of specific contingencies of life.

Currently contributions to the plan are set at 1.8 per cent of an employee's contributory earnings. That is matched by an equal payment from the employer.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order. On the question of the motion of the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone), I regret to inform her that I cannot find the motion in order. I refer her to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 435, paragraph one:

It is not an amendment to a motion to move that the question go to a committee.

It now being seven o'clock, the hour provided for Private Members' Business has now expired and we return to Orders of the Day.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mrs. Sparrow) appeared to be well prepared for her speech and she had only a minute or two. I thought that with unanimous consent we could all hear the remarks she has been working on for so long.

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order, please. The hour provided for Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

### 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. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives' strategy failed, thanks to Liberal vigilance. Mr. Speaker, what is C-96? It is a Bill providing for the transfer of federal funds for health care and post-secondary education. Why, Mr. Speaker, is the Official Opposition so violently opposed to Bill C-96? First of all, because this Government has made undue and unacceptable cuts in funding for two very important items: post-secondary education for our young people and medicare.

Mr. Speaker, in Quebec, this Government is going to cut a total of \$2 billion from these programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable, according to representations made by the Liberal Government of Quebec, the Hon. Robert Bourassa and his Finance Minister, Gérard-D. Lévesque.

Mr. Speaker, the same Conservative Government that claimed Canadian unity as its priority is now refusing to transfer to the provincial governments those payments that are vital and essential to the well-being of our youth.

Mr. Speaker, in committee, the vast majority of the people who testified objected to the way the Conservative Government is distributing money to the provinces and the amounts involved. But who is going to be affected? If the changes in transfer payments meant that the problems were merely being transferred from the federal to the provincial administrations, it would be bad enough.

But who are these people across Canada, who are these people in Quebec who are going to be affected by these cutbacks? Look at post-secondary education. Our sons and daughters, our young people have to spend an increasing number of years getting an education just to get a job and be able to plan for a career once they are on the labour market. Compared to previous generations, our young people must be