

I want to make it clear to all Hon. Members of this House why it is so important that such a referral of the subject matter be made to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, so that witnesses can come forward and the material can be scrutinized. As Hon. Members in this House know, the formula ran out in 1982 and for years now the federal Government has had an opportunity to get together with its provincial counterparts to work out some new and innovative kind of funding arrangement. But because of the nature of the Government which sits across from us, that opportunity has never been pursued. Unfortunately, it is our young people generally in this country who are the ones who are suffering.

Most Hon. Members of this House, Mr. Speaker, are aware that Bill C-12 caps the funding effective in April, 1983 at 6 per cent and at 5 per cent for this coming year. In both of these years we would have effectively seen an increase in excess of 11 per cent in funding under the Established Programs Financing program. Once again, Mr. Speaker, we have seen a unilateral move by the federal Government. It is a very serious problem in this country right now that the Liberal Government is incapable, for a variety of reasons, of having good relations, sound relations, not only with the provincial governments but with various groups who really are the future of the country.

An example of what occurred even last year under the six and five régime was touched on earlier this morning by a Tory Member from the Fraser Valley. He was trying to stand up for his good friends, the Socreds, I suppose because he was intending to run for them. In my own Province of British Columbia we have had the slash at the federal level of 5 per cent.

● (1210)

Then we have the heartless Government, led by the half-mad Bill Bennett, who does not pass on any of the increase to community colleges and universities. The effect is particularly devastating not only in rural British Columbia, such as the area I represent, but in urban areas all across Canada.

There is in effect a class and income-related bias as to who can get further education. Not only are eligible students being turned down for university, but it has become an economic phenomenon. The increase in tuition fees, rental accommodation costs, books, everything, has reached the point where once again it is the "haves" in society who are going to get an education and the "have-nots" will not. Here I am speaking about visible minorities such as native people, women, ethnic minorities, and people who for a variety of reasons have language problems, are disabled or whatever. It is those very individuals who should be gaining greater access to higher education and job marketable skills, but they are being excluded first by a very heartless move by the federal Government.

My colleague from Regina made a very good point that I think all of us have to reflect on. There is capital available without raising taxes or going through any real serious changes to the existing and extremely unfair tax measures

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before the House of Commons. I do not hear the Tories raising this issue. They are after the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Bussi eres) for a variety of things, which I think is good, but you do not hear them talking about the fact that the big corporations in this country owe \$30 billion—not million but billion—in unpaid taxes to Revenue Canada. We do not see the Minister of National Revenue sending his hotshots out to collect that money or the \$12 billion owed by the oil companies who ripped off consumers in this country. That money is not going into the EPF programs.

Not only are the wrong students being excluded from education, Mr. Speaker. I know that myself, having travelled from northern British Columbia, the Queen Charlotte Islands, to go to Simon Fraser University where my colleague, the Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett) was the President. That fine institution, like all of them in British Columbia and across Canada, is now having to cut library and laboratory supplies. Particularly useful things not only to graduate students but everyone in university, college or vocational training centres are periodicals, whether on plumbing, electricity, new breakthroughs in medicine or even English literature. Those are the kinds of things being slashed in the educational arena. These are the kinds of things that make education interesting and useful for the people who are there.

In moving referral of the subject matter, Mr. Speaker, I think all Members of this House should take an interest and vote for it. I am sure the Tories will vote for it because they do not want to vote with the Government. The benches of the national press gallery are bare; their occupants show no interest in this because it is one of those issues where students are isolated all across the country. Those who cannot go to university for economic or other reasons are not getting together to bring to bear co-ordinated political pressure. It is only those of us who really honestly believe in the future of this country, whether we are talking high-tech, vocational skills or about increasing the viability of the skills of minorities for whatever reason, whether native people or women—who are in fact not a minority but a majority. But they are one of the groups hardest hit by this six and five capping. Disabled people are another example.

I urge government Members not to vote just like rank and file sheep and seals, as they always do, but to think seriously about the effect of six and five being applied in this area. The Government is not applying it in areas such as the corporate sector, bank profits and all kinds of other areas. In moving this motion, Mr. Speaker, I urge Members in this House to show some common sense and sincerity about the job and the people they represent and the future of this country.

I therefore move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following therefore:

"Bill C-12, An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.