

*Established Programs Financing*

Government of British Columbia. Even though the increases are going to be cut back by the six and five program in the Bill before us, there have at least been some increases. In our province they have not been passed on and the province has even taken away from what had previously been accorded to the province for the purpose of post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, I know that in dealing with specific amendments it is not always normal to talk about specific instances that are having an impact. However, I do not think that is because it is not proper to do so. Surely it is correct to talk about the impact which the absence of such an amendment as we propose here is having on a particular community, on 500 full-time and part-time students and on their families. Surely it is proper to talk about the devastating economic impact as well as the impact on the careers of these students and faculty members. The impact is absolutely horrific.

I would ask the federal Secretary of State to recall some of the conversations which took place last Thursday. I would ask him to recall what gave rise to those complaints and to those very serious problems for those hundreds of young people and for an entire community which now has some 24 per cent to 30 per cent unemployment. I ask him to realize that if he were to agree to such an amendment as we propose today we would not in future have the type of serious problems we are now facing. I would again appeal to the Minister, to the Government, and to all Hon. Members of the House to move in this direction.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** Order, please. I am sorry to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, it is very important in the life of man to have a philosophy. It is obviously the responsibility of any political Party also to have a philosophy. However, when you start to mix your personal politics with your philosophy, you denounce your philosophy and second rate yourself. Then you mean nothing to anyone.

I would like to say that I admire the philosophy which suggests that there is a federal responsibility for education, particularly as it relates to post-secondary education. However, I do not think we should exert our politics to the extent of pointing the finger of blame at the wrong place totally. I cannot speak for all the provinces of Canada. I can speak from some knowledge of things in Atlantic Canada. It is no wonder the NDP does not have any seats in Atlantic Canada. It is attacking the wrong people in the House.

The Atlantic provinces of Canada have negotiated for years and years with the federal Government to be able to sustain the programs recommended by the federal Government, whether they be hospital care, welfare, medicare or post-secondary education. It was hoped by many that when the block funding system was adopted at long last, after four decades of negotiation and cost shared programs, the Government of Canada would in fact honour what was perceived to be its commitment and intentions. The failure to honour those commitments and apparent intentions has been expressed by the Minister of Finance of New Brunswick in the shortage of

\$234 million in the budget which he is about to bring down. What can a province of limited means do?

I am rather amazed that the lady who moved this motion, who has knowledge of the Province of New Brunswick, would not have attacked the Government of Canada first, and only later the provinces if she so wished, for the shortage of \$234 million to the province from which she hails. That is a very serious thing.

**Ms. Jewett:** It is not in the motion.

**Mr. McCain:** I only said that the Hon. Member was a descendant of New Brunswick people.

**Ms. Jewett:** And proud of it.

**Mr. McCain:** I hope that the Hon. Member would be.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** So is the Premier of British Columbia.

**Mr. McCain:** There is no better stock in Canada. I do not like the failure to recognize that with its block funding system the federal Government has again avoided the intent and the perceived commitment of the Government of Canada to do what needed to be done and not to shortchange it. I say unequivocally that Atlantic Canada has had the proudest history in education of any province in Canada. We have dedicated ourselves to better the education of our people. However, this cannot be done when the money is not available. While the Government has shortchanged every province in Canada, I am more knowledgeable about the situation in my province and its neighbouring provinces in Atlantic Canada. If we are going to mix our philosophy about this amendment, which I suppose is not objectionable, and overlook the fact that money is needed to meet the objectives of this amendment, then I think the credibility of the proponents of this amendment will be perceived by Atlantic Canada as lacking.

● (1540)

I must say that the Government has been remiss in its duty because in its attempt to take credit for itself it has shortchanged the provinces. It has tried to take action in other forms to appear as if it were taking action since the provinces will not do so. It has done this through medicare and post-secondary education, to the point even of putting a note in old age pension cheques saying that the Government of Canada is in favour of people getting all their health and medical services free. That is a blatant political exploitation of the senior citizens of this country at public expense. It implies that other Parties in the House do not support the same concept. But we have supported that concept. It is a blatant, contemptible trick to pull, but it was done.

Here we are again, with the supposed friends of Canada to our left and the supposed friends of universality, criticizing the provinces that have been shortchanged for not doing a job for which the federal Government had essentially committed the provision of funds.

**Mr. Parker:** Our record is clear.