

dismay and shock, even on the part of Conservative provincial Governments. The provincial Governments have rejected this legislation unanimously. They have sent us a signal and we have to follow through with it by adopting this motion and then defeating this Bill.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I think we are entitled at least once during the afternoon to hear a truthful rendition of the actual facts and not the pious mouthings of the criminals opposite who have returned to the scene of their crime. Why does this Bill have to be proposed to the House? By the way, the only thing this Bill does is reduce the rate of growth in transfers from the Government of Canada to the Governments of the provinces over the next five years. It does not reduce the amount of money the provinces will receive for health care and post-secondary education.

Why is this Bill necessary? It is necessary because of the hon. gentlemen opposite. Here I am referring to Members of the Official Opposition, not Members of the New Democratic Party who never had any responsibility for governing this country, thank God. Therefore, I cannot address these comments to them. Members of the Official Opposition opposite formed a Government for 20 years and got the country so far in the red that the present administration has to do something to retrieve the financial Niagara of debt that was left behind.

The Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi), in all his previous—

Mr. Rossi: We finally flushed you out, John.

Mr. Crosbie: I never realized that he had a tongue until he went into Opposition. The Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte Marie (Mr. Malépart) was like a blushing bride for all his previous years in this institution. There was never a sound from him. All he did was nod his head and say yes whenever the Government proposed anything.

Mr. Rossi: We finally flushed you out. We finally did it. That's what we wanted.

Mr. Crosbie: We see now the alternative there is to the present Government. When looking at the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte Marie and the Hon. Member for Bourassa, we can see what kind of Government they would give this country.

The Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) was a Finance Minister in Quebec and at least he knows something of which he speaks. He was out in the private sector for a number of years and knows how badly his cohorts served this country. He realizes the need for this piece of legislation. This is Liberal legislation, legislation caused by the Liberal Government that preceded us. This is Trudeau legislation. This is Turner legislation because he sat by and allowed the hon. gentleman to do this when he was in power. This is Chrétien legislation. This is Gauthier legislation.

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

Mr. Gauthier: Thanks, John.

Mr. Crosbie: This is legislation caused and inspired by Gauthier. Attorney General Scott of Ontario does not know who Gauthier is, but I have been trying to tell him who Gauthier is. Gauthier is a Member—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Could the Minister please make a speech?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rossi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi) on a point of order.

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Hon. Member who has the floor to speak to Bill C-96. It seems to me it is important enough.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) has the floor.

Mr. Crosbie: The Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte Marie mentioned Mr. Muffler. I hope to God he goes to Mr. Muffler before he speaks here again in order to get himself muffled down a bit.

Mr. Rossi: What province are you from? Your Minister doesn't seem to know. You're not on the map.

Mr. Crosbie: If the hon. gentleman had had a chance to be appointed to the Livestock Feed Board, he would have been gone before the last election as well.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: The only reason that those two hon. gentlemen are still here is that they did not get to the trough of the Livestock Feed Board. They ran out of places too late for you guys.

This is Liberal legislation caused by the Liberal Party and its stewardship. Do you realize, Mr. Speaker, that when Liberal Members left office, they left us with a deficit of \$34.5 billion? That is why this legislation is being introduced.

If we can introduce a note of sanity here for the first time this afternoon, this is a federation of 10 provinces, two territories and a federal Government. The provinces are very proud. They want to exercise their jurisdiction, and health services and education are both matters totally within the jurisdiction of the provinces. If we attempted to amend the BNA Act to remove any of that, they would howl like banshees. They would howl like weird will-o'-the-wisps, like the Hon. Member for Montréal—Sainte-Marie. They would howl like Mr. Muffler himself, if we attempted to take away any of their jurisdiction over health and education. They have the jurisdiction, yet it is the Government of Canada which is being abused here today by that great advocate of provincial