

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

and forced them to move from their homes and come to Toronto in order to subsist. I hope he does not run away from them; I hope he will stay and face them, because once they have camped on his doorstep they will be his constituents.

What the Minister seems to be proposing is not only copying what the Liberals did. It seems to be also copying what President Reagan has done to the south of us. President Reagan is developing with a vengeance the principle that the rich shall get richer and the poor shall get poorer. In short it is called Reaganization. The Minister's proposal for the health system in Canada will Reaganize health. His proposal for the education system will Reaganize education. In other words, the provinces such as all the eastern provinces east of Ontario and Manitoba, which do not now have the money raising or taxation ability to carry a proper health and education system will have less ability to do it. They will provide still less health care and still less education. Compared with them, provinces like Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia will be wealthy. In fact, they will be more wealthy. The rule which the Minister is establishing is that the rich provinces will get relatively richer and the poor provinces will get relatively poorer.

The only group which appeared before the committee to approve this was the Chamber of Commerce. We know where its main base is; we know which cities it mainly operates in—the cities of the rich provinces. The Chamber of Commerce is quite happy to have the money concentrated in cities like Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver. It is quite happy to have the money concentrated there because that makes a greater pool for the investors, the banks, the insurance companies, and the get rich quick investment schemes which spend billions of dollars in takeovers between companies. It is quite happy to have the money drained out of eastern Canada and out of Manitoba because the Chamber of Commerce then figures it will be the beneficiary. The Chamber of Commerce will have access to the wealth of the rich which has been drained out of the poor provinces of Canada.

It will probably work for a short time. It might work for the rest of the term of office of the Government. I doubt that it will work well enough to put them back into power because that is a long time. Another year, two years, or three years is a long time for people to go without, for people to see their health and education systems deteriorating.

It will not only be the people of the eastern provinces. In Toronto, the University of Toronto is suffering serious deterioration. It is not only courses such as the arts, which perhaps the Minister of Finance might think do not matter. Perhaps he thinks it does not matter that they reduce staff in faculties which teach languages, history, and so on. I am not sure that he is really so happy at the idea that they reduce staff in the teaching of physics, that they reduce laboratory facilities available to students, or that laboratories become obsolete and are not updated. I am not sure he is so happy that they reduce the teaching of mathematics and computer sciences by requiring a growing number of students in those growing fields

to use the same limited amount of equipment, working on shifts around the clock. Even on shifts they do not have enough time to carry out their studies and researches properly. Even the biggest university in the country is suffering through lack of equipment, lack of everything in its budget. Other universities have reported that they are losing some of their top researchers to the United States.

We know what the Government of the same Party did three decades ago when it cancelled the Avro Arrow and provided no alternative employment for the skilled people or the team producing the Arrow. The Government has not learned anything from the experience of the previous Conservative Government because it is going to do the very same thing again.

• (1400)

It would be possible for this Government, by spending only 10 per cent or 11 per cent of the new revenues, to increase what it gives to higher education and health. In other words, by keeping the same percentage of expenditure for the new revenues as for the old revenues, it would be possible for the Government to enable the health and education services of Canada to maintain their present level.

The Government boasts about the economic recovery that it says it is bringing about. If that is so, there will be more revenue next year without an increase in tax rates. There will be more revenue because of more jobs and more income, so the Government says. If the Government believes what it is saying, although I am not sure that the Government does, and if the Government can keep the financing level this year for the universities and the health system, that is to give 10 per cent or 11 per cent instead of cutting the amount to one-third of that, then next year the Government should be able to increase the funding to the universities, which would catch up for years of neglect. The present Government blames the previous Government for years of neglect, so it should be trying to do something to remedy the situation. It is not too late to withdraw or amend this Bill and cut out this disastrous mistake the Government is making which is destroying our health and education systems.

[Translation]

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to say a few words about the Bill before the House, Bill C-96. I admit it is not the first time I have had occasion to speak to this Bill. However, it seems to matter very little whether we come to the House to share our views with the Government Members. It does not do much good, because since the very beginning, they have been pushing this Bill—from first reading to second and third reading—without making the major changes that should be made, which means that Canadians are going to pay a very high price for this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the way this Bill is being forced on Canadians, and I say "forced". A year and a half or so ago, it was said with a great deal of emphasis that a new era of