

Secretary to a Minister of the Crown, in my view, one ought to speak from fact and not from aspirations for one's self gain. Unfortunately, the Government of the day, as represented by its Parliamentary Secretary, has said that there will be no reduction in EPF in real terms. I found that difficult to believe. Perhaps the greatest friend of the Government is the First Minister of the Province of New Brunswick who happens to be the Premier. It was the Premier's Minister of Finance who seconded a motion put forward before the Assembly in the Province of New Brunswick condemning the Government for the contents of Bill C-96. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the motion moved by none other than the next Premier of the Province, the Honourable Frank McKenna, which was amended by the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Mr. Baxter, Q.C. I am sure all Hon. Members will find it interesting. The motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced that the rate of growth in transfer payments under the Established Programs Financing Act will be decreased commencing in 1986; and

WHEREAS this reduction in the rate of growth will cost New Brunswick \$9 million this year and will total an estimated \$160 million by 1990-91;

That is clear, demonstrable evidence which ought to be taken by all Members of Parliament, particularly those Members opposite. When they stand in their place and say in a very cordial way, with every courtesy, to Members of Parliament that there will be no negative effects upon the province, they should take note that this is a motion, passed by a provincial assembly, which clearly spells out that the opposite effect will take place.

The motion goes on to include a number of items. I wish to table this motion for the benefit of all Hon. Members so they can perhaps read and understand the substance of it. Its essence is that it points out very clearly that the provinces will be affected negatively this fiscal year and in subsequent years. The Province of New Brunswick does not yet have a heritage fund. It cannot draw upon revenues which were produced at an earlier time to absorb the costs as they relate to education and health care.

• (2110)

Surely any reasonable Member opposite—in fact any Member on this side of the House—ought to conclude that the effect of this legislation will be devastating to the economy of New Brunswick. Surely New Brunswick ought to be equal to the Province of Alberta and to the other provinces of Canada. This legislation is not only taking money out of the economy of New Brunswick, but I respectfully suggest that it is in conflict with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides for equal opportunity and provisions for equalization so that in all parts of the country all Canadians, regardless of their geographical birthplace, will have an opportunity to receive those services which the national and provincial Governments wish to provide to their people.

I am a Liberal and Members opposite may say—

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

Mr. Benjamin: It's no time to brag about it.

Mr. Dingwall: The Hon. Member tells me that I should not brag about it. Well, I am very proud to be a Liberal. I want to tell Hon. Members that I am not the only one in my Party or, indeed, elsewhere, who finds great difficulty with Bill C-96. I have to say to Members of Parliament that perhaps one of the most distinguished legal minds and jurists in this country, who I am sure appeals greatly to the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. McInnes), who had an aspiring career in another avenue and whose career today is quickly on the decline, would have to agree with what the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada said. For the Chair and for Members opposite I wish to quote the words of the Chief Justice. He said:

It has been said by many people that education is too important to be left to educators. That may be true. But it is also true that education is too important to be left to ministers of finance.

Those are very telling words spoken by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. No Member, regardless of his or her partisan viewpoint, regardless of his or her ideology, and regardless of where they may stand on the substance of this issue, can disagree with the remarks of the Chief Justice of Canada when he alludes to the provisions of Bill C-96. He went on to state:

Please do not choke off the funding of universities. Canada must have good universities with outstanding teachers and world-class research facilities.

Let us ask ourselves what this does for the people of the Province of New Brunswick. Hon. Members have heard the unanimous resolution which was passed by the Legislature of that province. They have heard of the \$9 million in cut-backs in 1986-87. They have heard that by 1990-91 the amount of expenditures that will take place in that province in terms of these two subjects will be reduced by \$160 million. I ask: Is this Bill not discriminating against the people of New Brunswick? I am certain that the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) would agree that it is.

Mr. Benjamin: Agreed.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member agrees with what I have said. He is trying to be a Liberal, but he has a long way to go.

It is worth noting that not only the Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick strongly opposes Bill C-96, but the great Province of Manitoba has great difficulties with the Bill as well. However, before I deal with that province I would like to turn to comments made by the Canadian Medical Association. What has it said with regard to Bill C-96 and how it will affect the lives of Canadians? As evidenced by the number of cabinet Ministers here tonight, we know that they are not concerned. Well, we are concerned. We are very concerned about the effects that this Bill will have on the lives, both healthwise and educationwise, of Canadians. The Canadian Medical Association stated the following:

The federal Government must ensure that its proposed legislation, that will reduce the amount of budget increases for health care is applied on a short-term