

Established Programs Financing

The federal Government is doing the very thing it says is wrong. It is double billing the provinces, making the people pay twice. I question the legality of the federal Government taking over health services without changing the BNA Act. I question the Canadian Government's right to take money that comes from the provinces and put it in a special fund. That is neither sound nor right. That is not penalizing the Government of Alberta or any other province. It penalizes the people, the poor as well as the rich. I wish the Government would take a second look at this. It should at least take this question to the Supreme Court to see whether it has the right to do it. I question its right first to put its head in and then to take over. That is not sound.

I now want to deal with education as it relates to this Bill. I do not think the story is quite as explicit for education as for health with regard to how the federal Government got into it. It has not taken it over completely but is playing a very important part. It is either maintaining educational services or reducing them. That is what is happening.

According to the tables that have been provided, in 1983-84 the Province of Alberta will receive \$11 million less as a result of Bill C-12. That is not hay; it is a big part of a province's wherewithal. In 1984-85 there will be a further reduction of \$24 million. There will not be one province which does not get a reduction. Even though the Maritimes are having a difficult time, they will receive a cut as well. The only two areas not affected are the Northwest Territories and the Yukon; they are not provinces. In 1983, 1984 and 1985 there will be a \$378 million reduction as a result of Bill C-12. That will have a tremendous impact on the budget of every province, especially those that are having a difficult time. The other day a Member remarked what a difficult time Manitoba was having trying to keep their costs in line and provide the necessary services. Their deficit is becoming worrisome. Every province will be in that position.

If this trend continues with the federal Government taking more and more authority, we could end up with no provinces. We will reach the point where we will have no provinces because they will no longer be able to operate. This has happened with some municipalities: costs increased until the municipalities could no longer carry on. There is provision in the provincial Acts for the dissolution of such municipalities. They completely disappear. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that some provinces will disappear if this trend continues. That would be a catastrophe. It would be shocking.

In conclusion, we talk about where the federal Government is going to get its money. I have checked some documents which show that we have been lending money to many countries. I do not mind if we lend money to these countries if it will assist them to develop and help themselves.

• (1650)

Having lent this money, in 1977, without going to the people, the Canadian Government announced that, as part of the direct Canadian contribution to the special action program aimed at the needs of the least developed countries, Canada

would convert all of these loans to grants. I checked the figures and \$231 million in loans were forgiven. Some of this money did a good job, but a lot of it was completely wasted. It was provided by the people of Canada. Now we are saying to the people of Canada that we cannot afford to keep education up and we cannot afford to pay 50 per cent of your health. We are too busy forgiving loans to other countries of the world. What a catastrophe!

Mr. Ogle: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct one question to my colleague. We always enjoy the Hon. Member's speeches and even his story about the camel, although I did not exactly understand how that fitted in. From the Hon. Member's remarks it would appear that he is against medicare as an institution. At least, that is the way I understood the Hon. Member to speak. How does that fit into the Party position that seems to have been adopted to accept the health Bill? Is there a division in the caucus?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I think I will allow the Hon. Member to answer. I appreciate the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) alluded to medicare in his initial remarks and I think there is a broad, general connection. We are on second reading and talking about health services. I caution Members, nevertheless, not to debate a matter which has already been debated. The Bill on medicare has been referred to committee. It cannot be in two places at the same time in this institution. Nevertheless, the question has been put. We should keep that general rule in mind.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I cannot understand how the Hon. Member could get the impression I was against medicare. I fought for medicare just as hard as anybody in this House and I will continue to do so. I do not believe that any man, woman, boy or girl who does not have the money should be denied hospital and medical care. I would fight the right to the very hospital door if it was necessary to do so. It will not just be talk.

This Party is not divided on medicare either. Simply because we discuss something and want to keep it good and make it better does not mean we are opposed to it. There is no division in this Party. We are for medicare. We just want a fair deal for all the people of Canada. We do not believe that some people should not be double billed while others are doubled billed through taxes.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) who has about 40 years of experience in government and has dealt extensively with medicare and its implementation. In the many years when he was in the provincial Government of Alberta, did that Government pose an employees' and workers' tax on hospitals? We have this in Manitoba and it has been a tremendous burden on the hospitals. It is causing them great difficulty to live up to proper medicare standards. Would the Hon. Member like to comment on that? Did the Government of Alberta impose an employees' tax, which became a tremendous burden on hospitals, causing them to lay off people and