

*Supply*

I would encourage government Members to support this motion. I would encourage the Minister to consider seriously studying the concerns of Canadians about transfers of funds to the provinces to ensure that they are being spent in the right places. Let us lay to rest those concerns.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate my colleagues for bringing this motion forward. I hope the Government will vote for education, because that is how we will interpret Government support for this motion. I appreciate having the time to raise these important concerns that exist across country and in my home province.

• (1710)

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Duplessis:** Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the Hon. Member's speech, although of course I am not very familiar with the situation in northern British Columbia. However, since he said that we were not doing enough for the universities, I would like to quote a few statistics. Earlier, my colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State, mentioned there has been an increase in transfer payments for medical services and education. In the last Budget, we also saw a 12 per cent increase for science and technology. I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that additional funding in the amount of \$1.3 billion was earmarked for science and technology. In fact, this was announced by the Prime Minister on January 13, 1988.

Furthermore, \$520 million has been allocated to university research and instruction. This includes \$80 million for our Scholarship Programs; \$240 million for the centres of excellence, as I said earlier to another Opposition colleague; and \$200 million for the base budgets of research granting councils. I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that funding allocated to the granting councils will total \$3.7 billion over five years, until 1990-91. He should realize, if he looks carefully at these figures, that this represents an increase of \$1.4 billion or a little over 60 per cent, compared with the five previous years from 1981-82 to 1985-86.

Since we came to power, this Government has increased the annual budgets of granting councils by 20 per cent. The annual budgets of the three granting councils

added up to \$531.4 million, and that total is now \$635.4 million. In 1990-91, the councils' budgets will practically double, an increase of 48.9 per cent or \$791 million compared with 1984-85. Private sector contributions to university research under the matching funds policy will total \$380 million over five years.

I have many more lists of figures I could quote to the Hon. Member, but I would like to ask him, because earlier, at the beginning of his speech, he practically implied that the Government of British Columbia might misuse federal transfer payments. The implication was there, and I wish the Hon. Member would make himself clear in this respect or withdraw what he said, because I think these are very serious allegations which may be quite disturbing to the Government of British Columbia.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Malone):** I might remind the Hon. Member that he has two minutes.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. My point and concern is one a number of people have made in British Columbia. Let me talk about the current Established Programs Financing legislation. When that legislation was changed by the Liberals from having tagged funds, meaning that the province must spend the money on health and education, the money went basically toward general revenue. The charges made by many and why I asked the Minister of State my question is to try to lay to rest that concern, if there is one, as to whether the provinces are spending that health and education money where it should be spent. The Minister did not tell the House whether his Department has done any studies to confirm or deny that. He suggested that goodwill was required and I, in return, suggested that we need a little bit more than goodwill. A phrase that many people from B.C. are familiar with sums up everything. It is called the Coquihalla Highway. This is a provincial Government that spends funds in one area and uses them in another. That is how you answer a question like that.

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to enter this debate on the motion:

That this House call upon the Government to take steps to enhance the federal commitment to support post-secondary education, scientific and technological development, job training and re-training in the battle against illiteracy, all of which provide the essential foundation for building of a stronger and competitive future for Canada.