

*Government Orders*

port the fishery, its failure to husband the fishery, has led to economic disaster in the maritimes.

In this federal system of ours, often referred to as a co-operative federalism, we have agreed in our past history that there would be equalization payments to the regions or to the provinces in case of an economic decline. That makes very good sense and I will use Saskatchewan as an example because we are a province in transition and have been for quite some time. There are fewer people on the land now than there were a decade or several decades ago because of the mechanization of the agriculture industry. What this has meant is that many people have had to leave Saskatchewan.

I might add that since this government came to power in Ottawa, and we had a government with a similar philosophy in Saskatchewan, people have been leaving in far greater numbers because of the devastation which its policies have caused to the agricultural community.

The point is that when these people leave they are quite often highly educated people; not always in the universities but many of them with post-secondary education and skills who have gone and helped other parts of the country enormously in their development, whether it be academically through the university trained people or whether it be industrially through the skills which they have picked up in our technical institutes.

There we have the obvious reason why there has to be some kind of a transfer of funds from the federal government for post-secondary education. Transfer funds coupled with the transfer funds through the extended payment financing, the EPF, also include medicare, which over the years, the later part of the 1970s, includes the previous Liberal government under which the funding mechanism for post-secondary education and medicare was changed from specific tied funds to block funding.

We certainly lost a lot of the control which we otherwise would have had. The federal government lost a lot of control which otherwise it would have had for the financing of these programs.

The funding has gone down enormously. I know my time is limited. I will zero in primarily on education.

The university has had to become, as it was described a week or so ago at a conference, a business visage, more

business-like. I would suggest that if we are going to insist that the universities become more business-like and if they take on the business pattern that this present government has adopted, not only is the economy of the nation obviously in danger, as has been evidenced, but also the educational system will be as devastated as the national economy has been.

What it has meant for the young people of Saskatchewan is that the university was forced to cut back on the number of professors and other services which it had available. In order to accommodate the decreased capacity of the university to supply services in the province, it raised the entrance requirements and also the tuition fees. You have the double whammy of it being more costly for the young people of Saskatchewan to attend university and you have also made it more difficult for many of them to get into university.

If you can imagine, we have a situation in the province now in which in order to get into some of the colleges in the University of Saskatchewan, the students have to have averages sometimes well over the mid-80s. In some cases, I have heard students have to have averages over 90.

There is no one here who, at least on the surface of it, would not say that they certainly value education. If we are talking in terms of people having to have over a 90 per cent average in order to get into university, we are talking in the realm of absolute stupidity. I remember when I was getting out of high school, the average, I believe, for university entrance was somewhere around 65 or 70 per cent. I would suggest Saskatchewan is a very good example of very well educated people having gone into the universities with those kinds of entrance requirements and having gone on to serve not only the province of Saskatchewan and the country of Canada, but the world, very well with averages that were not anywhere near that high.

I think we have to be careful here. I very nearly said cuts. The fact of the matter is that on the surface of it the number of dollars transferred to Saskatchewan from the federal government has not gone down, it has not been cut. What has happened is that the funds transferred to the province of Saskatchewan for post-secondary education and medicare have not kept up with inflation, which in the reality of the student going to university might as well be a cut because it affects them just as surely as if