

Established Programs Financing

graduate from secondary schools. Those students have difficult problems managing their first year of university.

● (1200)

A cutback in post-secondary education will cause a ripple effect through the system. It is the Government's responsibility to educate people and it is shirking that responsibility. Instead, it is trying to cut its commitment on the basis of six and five.

I cannot explain intensively enough the importance of high technology and particularly its development in those parts of Canada which have a high unemployment rate. I cannot emphasize enough its importance to the Maritimes. Above all, education for those people should not be cut back because it is their one chance to be self-sufficient and to take pride in themselves. They are intelligent people who are capable of developing industries in that part of Canada.

I cannot understand the logic of the Government's action in another area. It has a \$1 billion youth opportunity program, the purpose of which is nothing but partisan politics. That \$1 billion should have been put into the re-education of Canadians in their mid-forties and mid-fifties who will be structurally unemployed as new technology takes over. Instead, a billion dollars is being thrown into make-work projects which will not add ten cents to our GNP.

In order to increase our GNP, productivity must be increased. In order to increase productivity, youth and those presently in industry must be educated. This Bill is an absolute insult to Canadians. Since these cutbacks will discourage our doctors currently practising here, how will we be able to educate and encourage a sufficient number of doctors to remain in this country? A cutback in this area means that research is cut back and that is something we cannot afford to do. I repeat that this will have a ripple effect through the whole economy.

I cannot accept this Bill because it is unfair and does not apply equitably across the country. I suspect the Government believes that since it gives the Maritimes so much it does not need to give them any more. But the Maritimes must receive more in the right areas in order to help them become self-sufficient. I believe that is very important.

As I indicated at the outset, the only way we can afford the wonderful programs in this country is to increase our GNP through increased productivity. It is only our youth and our presently employed who can increase productivity, and any action which adversely affects them will affect the future of this country. We will not be dealing with a \$31 billion deficit; it will be much higher. Our programs must grow with the economy.

The other part of this Bill concerns medical cost-sharing. The Government, in an attempt to rectify its mistake, is now saying that it will go fifty-fifty with the provinces. However, it is still trying to stick to six and five. As new technology in

medicine is developed, costs rise. For instance, a nuclear scan is far more expensive than an x-ray machine, yet new technology is continually improving to the point where the nuclear scan is almost out of date.

The Government is not contributing its fair share toward medicare. The Government has indicated in Bill C-3 that the provinces cannot get their money if they implement user fees or the like. In Bill C-12 the Government is indicating to the provinces that it will keep them limited as to how much money they can spend. This is literally talking out of both sides of one's mouth. The Government should be consistent. If the Government wishes to implement the proposals of Bill C-3, which we have supported, then it should put the funding in place that will enable us to have medical attention that is as good as anywhere in the world. While our country has been blessed with resources, we have also been blessed with knowledgeable people. If the Government cuts back on its share of medical costs it will do so to the detriment of every citizen in Canada.

I am afraid that the Government has its priorities totally clouded. It is not addressing the important issues because it is terrified that it is on its last legs. This would be called a lame duck congress in the United States. This is a lame duck Bill which does nothing.

The Government should at least live up to the commitment that was made when medicare was originally introduced and to the original commitment with respect to post-secondary education. It should not impose cutbacks in these two areas. The way we can afford medicare is to increase our GNP through increased productivity. That productivity will be increased when the skills of the people in this country are improved.

Our Party will not vote for this Bill because it is inequitable, unfair to institutions and to those who have dedicated their lives to research and the education of Canada's youth. This Bill is not fair to our country. Canada must be built on technology because resources are no longer the solution. We must refuse to accept this Bill because funding to educational institutions should be increased in order to ensure the protection of primary education in Canada.

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member spoke about a \$1 billion youth fund. It seems to me that this Bill cuts back on the money available for education of young people. Last year funding was cut by \$118 million and beginning in March of this fiscal year it will be cut by another \$260 million, for a total of \$378 million. Why do we have a \$1 billion youth fund on one hand and a cutback of the services available for educating young people of \$378 million on the other?

Mr. Fennell: That is a very good question. The priorities of the Government are out of whack. The Government is frightened and therefore operates in fear of doing the wrong thing. It knows that it will lose the next election so it is trying to buy votes through part-time work.