

Established Programs Financing

Mr. Crosbie: If Mr. Turner has any sense he will join us. He will not attempt to run for the festering Party which now represents the Liberals in Canada.

In the last four or five years, Mr. Speaker, there has been no federal-provincial relations hip. There is a state of war between the federal Government and the ten provinces of Canada. We have a Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who is all muscle within Canada when it comes to his own fellow Canadians. When it comes to the other ten Canadian governments the Prime Minister is all muscle; he is warlike, he is belligerent, he declares war, he does a judo chop on them. There is no insult he will not give to them. It is only when it comes to our enemies outside Canada that he is an emasculated eunuch, a peace lover of the highest degree. That is when he goes outside Canada. Inside Canada he is belligerent and has declared war on the provinces, and this Bill is a reflection of that.

I have another piece of hypocrisy here, Mr. Speaker. There is another article in the paper today where the distillers are pointing out what has happened to their industry as a result of vicious taxation by the Government. The indexing of excise taxes two years ago, in September of 1981, has increased the retail price of liquor by 45 per cent. The Government which is now applying six and five to post-secondary education, and to the universities of Canada, last fall increased taxes on wine and spirits by 13 per cent to 15 per cent. There is no six and five policy when it comes to collecting its revenue and its impositions from the Canadian people. As a result of the indexing of excise taxes, thousands have lost their jobs in the distilling industry.

We are told that this great and famous six and five program has to be applied to post-secondary education. Whom does it affect the most? Whom is this the most crippling blow to? It is the most crippling blow to the Atlantic provinces and, in particular, to the Province of Newfoundland. It is a blow to those provinces which are financially strapped, and the four Atlantic provinces are among the most financially strapped of any of the provinces of Canada. This is a vicious blow to those provinces just when they need federal financial assistance, and more of it, to help their post-secondary education system. Just when they have fantastic highs of youth unemployment and unemployment generally, this Government reduces what they are to receive, using the fiction that it has to apply a six and five program to contracts which it entered into with the provinces in 1977. The Government has turned its back on its commitment and asks us to pass this legislation.

What is the effect on Newfoundland? In the year which is ending now, Newfoundland will receive \$2.7 million less than it would have received for post-secondary education. I believe in the year 1984-85, next year, when Newfoundland will be more in need of educational and training services for youth than ever, there will be a reduction, I believe of \$6.1 million. The Province of Newfoundland, already strapped, already with a current account deficit, already with the highest per capita debt in Canada, is not going to be assisted by this Government.

This Government is going to grind Newfoundland further down, if it can do it.

If one looks at the changes for this year, one will see that Ontario loses \$41 million. There could be some argument that Ontario can afford to pay more itself, although I do not accept that, but certainly Ontario is in a better position than Newfoundland to absorb these kinds of body blows. The total for this year is \$118 million. That is despite the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), who was then Minister of Health, having devised the new formula for the provinces five years ago, and having had them enter into agreements with the federal Government. It was the Government of Canada which agreed to the formula and put forward the formula in 1976-77 which was accepted eventually and passed into law, and which this law now breaches. I, of course, intend to vote against this Bill and I only wish I had more than one vote to cast against this pernicious betrayal of the provinces and the people of Canada.

The Speaker indicates I only have a minute or so left. I just want to point out that the Economic Council of Canada, an impartial federal agency, reported last year, with respect to the claim of the Government of Canada that the provinces had reduced their spending on health care and education, that:

—there has been no decline in provincial spending on health care and post-secondary education relative to GNP.

That is a complete repudiation of the position of the federal Government and the devious statements of the Minister of Health over the last several years. The same report of the Economic Council of Canada stated that contrary to the claims of the federal Government—and I quote again:

—there was no meaningful evidence that the increase in the federal deficit could be linked specifically to federal-provincial transfers.

That was another canard. That was another piece of deception which the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health were attempting to put across. Their own federal economic research agency—independent—repudiated the Government's position after doing a careful study of the health care and educational situation. What more can be said?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

Mr. Crosbie: Well, no more can be said because my time has expired. I hope that many of the hon. gentlemen opposite will join me in voting against this betrayal of the Canadian people.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a chance to participate in this debate and to make clear to Hon. Members on the government side, and to those people who might be listening today, my opposition and the opposition of my Party to the proposed Bill, Bill C-12. At the end of my comments, Mr. Speaker, I will be referring the subject matter of the Bill. I just want to give you notice of that and perhaps you will remind me when I have a few seconds left so I can move it for the record.