

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the will of the House that I be allowed to speak at this time. I am pleased that the New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative Party gave me permission to speak at this time. I hope they will listen and understand that it is of great importance to the entire academic community, including teachers, administrators, students and researchers—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. I hope that Hon. Members will carry on their conversations in their respective lobbies and allow the distinguished Member for Eglinton—Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) to say a few words.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was saying that students, which number nearly a million Canadians, those in administrative positions and in the teaching faculties of universities and colleges, and researchers, all of whom total some 1.2 million Canadians in the field of post-secondary education, will be gravely affected by Bill C-96.

The Government has broken the promises it made to the Canadian people. The academic community, including students, teachers, professors and parents, asked what the Government would do in terms of the future of post-secondary education and whether it would maintain the agreement contained in the formula of 1977. The answer given by the Progressive Conservative Party was:

We are committed to sustaining the current federal financial commitment, according to the formula set out in the 1977 Agreement.

When asked if the Conservative Party supported the continuation of that agreement, the Conservatives said in different words:

Yes, we support fully the original 1977 funding formula and the legislation providing for that.

This legislation does not provide for that continuation, but for its destruction.

Unfortunately, the Party opposite has broken its promise to the electorate. It has broken its promise to the young people of this country in the future. Not only has the Government broken its promise in this legislation, it has also broken an agreement between the Canadian Government and the provinces. That was a solemn agreement on which the provinces counted to finance the health care and post-secondary institutions until March, 1987. The Government has broken that promise in mid-term and has cut off the increases which those provinces counted on to provide for medical care for Canadians and post-secondary education for our young people.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) originally stated that he would keep this promise. However, it is interesting to note that the Minister changed his mind after the banks collapsed in the West. He reversed his position and implemented this cut contained in Bill C-96. In other words, it appears to us, to the Canadian Association of University Teachers and to the academic community, that this Bill was introduced to help the

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Government pay nearly \$1 billion as a result of its decision on the bank's collapse in 1986. For the sake of supporting those who were in need of replacing the funds they had invested—some of whom were multi-millionaires—the Government took money away from the young people and gave it to the banks in which those people had deposits.

While I am not opposed to the Government taking that action, it should not be done at the expense of the young people of this country.

The Government broke its promise to the Canadian people, then proceeded to break an agreement between the Government of Canada and the provinces of this country. This year it will cut back on the anticipated revenues that the provinces expected for medical care and post-secondary education pursuant to an agreement that was supposed to end on March 1, 1987. That is a tragic mistake and a black mark on the Government's relationship with the provinces.

Furthermore, the Government has decided to move a closure motion in order to push this Bill through. The Government is limiting debate even though it has an enormous majority in the House. The Opposition totals only 70 Members out of 228. With that kind of majority I find it surprising that the Conservatives still feel it necessary to use their power to crush and prevent the Opposition from debating this Bill.

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The provinces are not happy with this Bill. Premier after premier has accused the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Government of reducing the growth of federal funds for health and education without consultation. That is a scandal. As if there were not enough scandals now, the Government must muzzle the Opposition and prevent it from representing the provinces. There are at least eight provincial Governments which have formally and informally expressed their distaste about what the Government is doing with respect to post-secondary education and medical care of the Canadian people through Bill C-96. The Government told the provinces it was going to cut their funding but did not discuss it with them. The Government just announced the cuts. It was done by *fiat*. We know now what happened to the promise of dialogue and consultation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State of Canada (Mr. Scott) said on April 25, and I quote from *Hansard* at page 12668:

No province will be affected any more or any less than any other province through this Bill.

What an outrageous remark, Mr. Speaker, when we know that some provinces are less well off economically than other provinces! How could anyone dare to say on behalf of the Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan that they will be affected in just the same way as all other provinces? Terence Donahoe, the Minister of Human Resources Development and Training of Nova Scotia, a Tory provincial Government, is quoted in *The Globe and Mail* on January 28 as saying, and I quote: