

Canada. Questions have been raised in the House with regard to Canada Post recognizing the Chinese New Year. If we had an educational thrust which made people in general more aware of the multicultural heritage in Canada, we would not have these problems.

● (1150)

I see, Mr. Speaker, that my time has expired. In closing, I would like to indicate that we in the New Democratic Party feel that people are our greatest resource and this is not the time to be introducing a Bill such as this. We wanted to share these concerns at this time.

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to speak on this Bill. I have only to look through the post-secondary entitlements and the comparison with and without this Bill to see that in 1983-84 the provinces will be losing \$163.88 million for education. In 1984-85 they will be losing \$177.37 million. Mr. Speaker, every newspaper that you open today refers to the lack of education of our youth in high-tech skills. This is the wrong time to be reducing the entitlement to the provinces.

I heard the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan) talking about the difficult times they are having in the Maritimes and the fact that their entitlement will be cut more than that of the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Mr. Speaker, if there is any part of this country to which we should be addressing the importance of education it is to the Maritimes. The Maritimes have had basic, built-in problems for many years. The one way that they could come into their own is with brain power. Through education in high technology they could be self-sufficient. The Maritimes are not satisfied to be in the position they are in today. Deep down they do not want handouts. They would like to be a self-sufficient part of the Canadian society, contributing on an equal basis. Cutting back in the Maritimes is the most severe mistake that this Government could make.

I have a record here, Mr. Speaker, of some of the universities in the Maritimes. Of the general operating expenditure of the University of New Brunswick, 17 per cent is spent on research. That is very commendable. How can they keep that up if the basis of funding that has been agreed to going back to Confederation is cut back? This is wrong, Mr. Speaker. Any Member on the Liberal side who comes from the Maritimes should vote against this Bill because it is doing a disservice to that part of the country. They are fine people and would like to have their own industries. They would like to be able to adapt themselves to new technology. Through new technology, Mr. Speaker, this world becomes much smaller. Where you live becomes less important if you have those facilities. If the Government wanted to cut back on Ontario I would argue that point. However, I am much more strongly opposed to cutting back in the maritime provinces. Look at the youth unemployment in Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker. That is a province that

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could be totally self-sufficient. With their oil potential from the sea they should have a larger proportion of funds for secondary education.

I would particularly like to speak about Memorial University. The general operating costs of Memorial University are \$79 million. Their research costs are \$11.783 million. Mr. Speaker, the Government is going to take that away from a critical part of the country and from the youth that are now unemployed in Newfoundland. I think that is a serious error. To try to apply the formula of six and five to post-secondary education is insane. The rest of the world has increased their expenditures on research and development and education. For example, in Japan there are 400 engineers for every one million people. Our record is around 40 engineers.

The one thing this country has to do, Mr. Speaker, is to increase its Gross National Product so that we can afford to provide these social programs. If we are going to increase the Gross National Product we cannot afford to cut back on post-secondary education. The Government is doing the wrong thing again. If the public thinks carefully, this should put us back up to 62 per cent in the polls. Our Government, Mr. Speaker, would increase the funding for research and development through the universities and increase the funding for post-secondary education. We know that the only countries that are doing well today have done that.

I am in the middle of a report from the American Congress, Mr. Speaker, dealing with how they have gotten so far behind. Their unemployment is not acceptable yet their unemployment is far less than ours. Their inflation is not acceptable yet their inflation is far less than ours. They are addressing the critical problem of research and development to allow people to get jobs.

My riding encompasses all of the area east of Toronto to Oshawa. Durham College has been an important facility to the City of Oshawa. The young people in my riding and over as far as Bowmanville have been raised with the idea that if their grandfather worked in the "Motors", their father worked in the "Motors" and they will work in the "Motors". Mr. Speaker, they will not work in the "Motors" because the company is changing. General Motors is going to be as modernized as any Japanese automobile factory within the next five years. At the present time they have one production line which has not gone onstream. I believe it has 117 robots. Mr. Speaker, those robots can work three shifts. During the night they can probably work with one man supervising them. The point I am trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is that we cannot afford to cut back on post-secondary education.

There is going to be a conference of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario. On February 15 and 16 they will be reviewing their role. What kind of role will they have if there is a cutback? Let us take it one step further. We have heard a great deal about primary education in this country and the illiteracy of students who