

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

program and other measures, the Government has not kept that promise. The Government's cut-back in that area has added a burden on the social programs that provinces and municipalities must deliver. However, perhaps that is a topic for another time.

● (1450)

Let me remind you of other promises, Mr. Speaker. The Tories said they would support the critical role of the voluntary sector, that they would consult with provinces, groups, individuals and health care professionals in making improvements to the system. I suppose they never said they would consult with the provinces, groups and individuals when destroying the system. So perhaps that promise has not been breached. But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, when the people of Canada listened to that commitment from the Conservative Party during the election campaign, they did not expect to see these cut-backs in funding, which will have the very serious results expressed by Chief Justice Brian Dickson.

The Tories said they would use the system so it acts in a preventive manner, raising the health care standards of Canadians. If we do not have any money to take care of health care needs, how could we further add to the preventive function? How can we do that if we cannot even do what needs to be done on an emergency and urgent basis? The Tories said they would use health care resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible. That most effective way must be preventive health care. The only way we can engage further in that area is by providing the immediate funding so we will not have this long-term pain. We need to provide money immediately and in the short term in order to create the appropriate atmosphere which will cause us to save in the long run and which will assist us in having a healthier society.

Perhaps some Tories opposite are not yet entirely convinced. Perhaps they still think some of us could be partisan and not totally objective.

[Translation]

But, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what the Canadian Medical Association had to say when Dr. W. J. Vail appeared before the legislative committee on Bill C-96. I will read just a few lines of the statement made by the Canadian Medical Association: "The CMA is seriously concerned about the harmful consequences the proposed amendments may have on the financing of health care, therefore on the system of health services offered to Canadians, as much with respect to accessibility to the system as to the availability and quality of care."

This is what Dr. Vail said, Mr. Speaker, and as you know, many people in the medical profession are not as big fans of the Liberal Party as they used to be, especially in Ontario, but whatever the political affiliations of Dr. Vail, we have to note that, according to his association, the Conservative Government and its present policies are detrimental to health care in Canada. However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read . . . This is interesting, Mr. Speaker. I see that the Hon. Member

opposite seems to side with the Ontario doctors rather than with the population of his province. That is interesting and I am certain that the people of Ontario will remember it. I wonder whether that represents the official position of the Federal Conservative Party about health care in Ontario.

The national union of farm women and its representative, Kathy Connors, said this when they appeared before the legislative committee on Bill C-96 on May 28: "We are very concerned by the fact that the Government has decided unilaterally what the framework of financing agreements will be. There is no consultation or consensus when a single party decides and the others are only entitled to react."

As you see, Mr. Speaker, many Canadians from various sectors of our society believe that Bill C-96 is not to the advantage of Canadians.

And the reason why we are here today, Mr. Speaker, as I remind the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Vincent), is that we represent those Canadians. And if we are here to represent them, why will this Conservative Government not listen?

I would now like to deal briefly with the university community, because those cuts as proposed in Bill C-96 will have negative effects not only on health care but also on education, something I would like to bring for your attention, Mr. Speaker.

As we know, there were students here on Parliament Hill, and more specifically I remember that day, on March 14, when 300 students were here, students from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, a good many of whom reside and vote in the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. It is therefore a double privilege to speak on the matter on behalf, as always, of citizens of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

The newspaper *Le Droit* had this to say on March 14: "More than 300 students from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University demonstrated on Parliament Hill around noon yesterday, condemning the cut-backs announced by the Conservative Government in post-secondary education funding." It went on: "Ottawa is considering a \$5 billion cut-back in transfer payments for education and health care by 1990, as revealed recently in Bill C-96. This statement was made by the President of the Canadian Federation of students, John Casola. About a third of that amount was to be used for education."

As we see, those cut-backs as proposed in Bill C-96 will have a negative impact on education and health care.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind you of what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has said. Earlier I referred to the Minister of Finance before his conversion, when he was in Opposition. In those days he opposed a certain consultation process saying it was inadequate.

But when he himself became Minister, as I was saying earlier and as you certainly remember quite well, Mr. Speaker, he decided to do what he wanted and did not consult anybody.