

At the Bank of Nova Scotia in Summerside this morning, personal loans of up to \$10,000 cost 17 per cent. Mortgages of one, three or five years now cost 14.75 per cent.

All of this points in one direction—to a recession.

I want to close with a few words on the cumulative effects of the budget and government policy in general as it applies to Prince Edward Island.

The province realizes that it has to do its share and it has indicated time and again its willingness to do so. But as the federal government introduces each individual piece of legislation, it uses the same argument—everyone has to do their share.

I contend some people and some provinces are doing more than their share. Bill C-69 cuts millions of dollars of revenue from Prince Edward Island. It reduces equalization payments and cuts millions more. Changes in UI legislation will take further millions out of the economy. Closure of CFB Summerside takes away \$50 million from the economy of that town.

By the way, Madam Speaker, in a few days we will be observing the first anniversary of the announcement of the closure of CFB Summerside, and we are still anxiously awaiting the fulfilment of the promise that the federal government has made to have a comparable federal offset for the area.

There have been cuts and cancellations of ERDAs, particularly in the tourism area.

Then, there are what we could call, I suppose, indirect financial losses. These are the abandonment of the railroad, the cancellation of VIA, cuts to CN Marine subsidies, and cuts to small craft harbour budget.

All of these either reduce our revenues or increase our cost of doing business.

It is the cumulative effect of these measures that has laid such a heavy burden on the shoulders of the people of Prince Edward Island and has turned its residents so bitterly against this government.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Madam Speaker, it is with a certain amount of sadness that I listen to my colleague from Egmont speak of the disastrous effect that this bill is going to have on his province.

Government Orders

I am from an island province too, and I would like to zero in on one particular aspect of what my colleague from Egmont had to say. In order to do this I have to quote from a comment made by the present Minister of Finance. In 1982 he said:

Cuts to EPF could have disastrous effects on the universities and on the colleagues, on the hospital funding, and on the operation of the hospitals.

I would like to zero in on this. Let us not make hospitals, universities, and colleges a battleground between the federal government and the provincial governments. Let us solve those problems—not on the backs of the hospitals and universities, let us solve the problems outside of that arena.

Of the \$7.364 billion that this will mean to the provinces in the next five years, I am sure the House will find it interesting to recall that \$5.3 billion of that is for health care, and \$2.1 billion is for post-secondary education.

My concern is with health care. Coming from the province of Newfoundland, like Prince Edward Island, we do not have a large budget. Our concern with health care is very genuine. Not only do we not have the money to pay for it—despite what the hon. member from Mississauga South said about half an hour ago—we have an aging population. Although I do not have the statistics I am very much aware that the age of the population of Newfoundland per capita is generally older than it is for the rest of Canada. As it is, it is over 11 per cent now in this country, and I do not have to tell you, Madam Speaker, that our population is aging in a general sense and we are looking at close to 20 per cent just beyond the year 2000. So we have little money and we have an aging population. The other thing that concerns me is the rising cost of the high technology equipment in hospitals.

• (1810)

In support of what the member had to say I would ask for his comments on it as well. In the past three weekends I have been associated with two of the three major hospitals in my riding. One is the Cross Memorial Hospital in Clarendville, the distribution centre of that part of the riding. It is a secondary care hospital which serves 35,000 people. The other hospital is the Carbonear Hospital which, although it is in the biggest town in my riding, basically serves the whole of one of the three peninsulas of about 45,000 people. Both these hospitals have had to organize themselves into memorial trust