

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

not education and health care. In effect, the Government is not even cutting the deficit in this way. What it is doing when it cuts educational and health care programs is transferring the deficit to the provinces. Once it cuts the moneys which go from the federal Government to the provinces to pay for education and health care, everyone knows that education must be kept at a level which will keep us competitive with the United States, Western Europe, Japan, and so on. Someone will have to pay for education and health care, and it will be the provinces. Unfortunately it will almost be impossible for the Maritime Provinces, the Province of Manitoba, and the Province of Quebec. Perhaps Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia in its best days can keep up, but it will be very difficult for the poorer provinces without that required money from the federal Government.

Fees are already being raised by universities because of the cuts. The provinces cannot provide more money to their universities, colleges, and technical schools. The people who wish to attend those institutions have to pay out of their own pockets, and many of them cannot. Students are hoping to obtain summer jobs to pay their fees and their room and board expenses, but it does not look good in many cases. What is happening? In effect, we are returning to a day which we thought we had left many years ago when university education becomes accessible to the rich and those with money but not so accessible to those without money, especially those from poorer provinces.

The government measure in respect of health care is occurring at a time when those people who are over 65 years of age are becoming a greater percentage of the population, when our population is aging and consequently there is a greater demand upon the health care system. I should like to quote what Justice Emmett Hall said when he spoke about health care. I think all Hon. Members of the House recognize Justice Emmett Hall, through his royal commission report and his review of the medicare system, as one of the leading experts on health care in Canada. He argued the following:

—that the trauma of illness, the pain of surgery, the slow decline to death, are burdens enough for the human being to bear without the added burden of medical or hospital bills penalizing the patient at the moment of vulnerability. The Canadian people determined that they should band together to pay medical bills and hospital bills when they were well and income earning. Health services were no longer items to be bought off the shelf and paid for at the checkout stand. Nor was their price to be bargained for at the time they were sought. They were a fundamental need like education, which Canadians could meet collectively and pay through taxes.

That is the system which we in the House put in place in 1966. By the way, it is now being threatened in Ontario by its doctors. The doctors of one of the richest provinces in Canada are bucking the medicare system and are insisting upon extra billing. We are fighting against a Bill which would cut back moneys to the provinces to help pay for post-secondary education and health care.

As other Hon. Members have said already, our only hope with Bills such as this one is that Canadian public opinion will come to bear on the Government. We cannot win any vote

against this massive horde on the other side and surrounding us on both sides over here.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Does that give you a real warm feeling?

Mr. Allmand: They are not bad fellows as individuals, but when they get together and stand behind these policies, it is hard to take. Our only means of fighting back against this kind of a Bill is to continue the debate until it penetrates the public consciousness as to what is happening. I will repeat what I said at the beginning. As a result of this Bill, more than \$8 billion less will go the provinces for education and health care by the year 1992. That is a tragedy and a shame for a country that is trying to keep pace with others in this competitive technological age.

● (2140)

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, I listened to the speech by my hon. colleague, the Hon. Member for NDG—Lachine East (Mr. Allmand). I was struck by the articulation of his commentary concerning the drastic and Draconian cuts that the health and educational services will have to absorb under the Tory regime. I was struck also because, as we travelled throughout the country and talked to various Canadians from all walks of life from all regions, there were two elements in the federal-provincial domain which people treat as sacred. They are the two elements by which we can measure how progressive Canadian society is; on the one hand, how we treat our young people, *vis-à-vis* education, and on the other, how we treat our elderly *vis-à-vis* health care.

All ages of Canadians need to have access to the health care system. It is obviously understood and accepted that the older one gets, the more one needs medical services. It is a dichotomy that in Bill C-96 we are hitting two very crucial elements, the two extremes of Canadian society, the young and the old. I would like to ask my hon. friend about some comments from the Canadian Federation of Students. Tony Macerollo on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Students concentrating on the youth aspect said:

Limiting the growth of EPF transfers to the provinces as outlined in Bill C-96 will amplify the underfunding problems that have become evident at post-secondary institutions across the country.

Our concern with respect to this particular Bill is that it attacks the wrong problem, in that if the spending arrangements are not being carried out in the appropriate manner by the provinces, the funding cannot be cut back. A method of allocation has to be put in place that is going to ensure that kind of accountability.

My colleague from Montreal is also the critic for employment programs. We have heard the Government talk about education as being the key to tomorrow's society, as education being the key to the development of young people so they can seize the opportunities that will be theirs tomorrow. How will this bill affect the evolution and development, if you will, of those young people as they enter the 21st century as leaders of Canadian society and how will this type of Bill reflect and retard that crucial and important process?