

*Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act*

another very good example of the federal Government passing the buck.

I sent a letter to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) on August 1, 1985. It takes a long time to think up answers over there because she still has not replied to say whether or not she will meet with a local committee of merchants and professionals and municipal politicians who are concerned about their communities of Chalk River and Deep River. The Minister plays it safe. She leaves the letter in her office unanswered. However, as long as it stays there she is not going to be allowed to forget it.

The Government expects everybody else to squeeze their budgets and carry a bigger share of what should be a federal responsibility. Yet at the same time the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Minister of National Defence have no qualms whatsoever about spending \$40,000 of taxpayers' money to make a movie of the Prime Minister, and use a DND aircraft to do it. If the Government continues to go on in this way, if it continues to spend thousands in this way and expects other people to cut back and pay higher taxes, I suggest that the Prime Minister and his friend Ronald Reagan are going to have lots of time to produce a real movie after 1988. In light of what has been going on lately in U.S.-Canada relations, perhaps the Prime Minister would like to call the first movie "Double Cross".

This is retrograde legislation. It is certainly not in keeping with co-operative federalism. It will lead to real problems in provincial and municipal financing and affect the individual lives of every Canadian from one end of this country to the other.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Questions or comments.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Member for his excellent remarks in the House this afternoon. Obviously the people of Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke are very well served by the Hon. Member. We can now understand why he is re-elected election after election. I am sure that the people of his riding must be very proud of their Member.

I want to ask him about Tory promises. I know that you, Mr. Speaker, are familiar with the book of 338 Tory promises because I think I may have raised it in the House once or twice previously. The book of 338 Tory promises, which incidentally is available to anyone who writes to me and asks for a free copy, postage free, has in it on page 15 promise number 7. The Tories said during the election campaign, and of course they said many other things; that they would recognize the legitimate role and jurisdiction of the provinces in economic and social policy issues.

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They also said, in promise number 10, that they were to govern through consensus building rather than through confrontation. Those are only two of the 338 Tory promises.

In my view, and I want to ask my colleague's opinion, these two promises have very, very clearly been breached by Bill C-96 which, of course, is highly confrontational. There was no dialogue at all between the provinces and the federal Government. I want to ask him particularly if he agrees with me that promise number 7 has very clearly been breached as well. The recognition of that role the the province has in terms of social policy can only be achieved with the proper instruments, the proper instrument in this case being the funding that the provinces need to get. I want to ask my honourable colleague if he agrees with me that there has been a breach of at least two promises in this Bill alone.

I have given a very quick look to these promises, and it appears to me that at the rate that the Government is delivering on some of the promises here it will take until the year 2026 before all 338 promises are fulfilled. I wonder if the Hon. Member for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins) could tell us here today if he thinks the voters of his riding, who, undoubtedly, like the voters of my riding and yours, Mr. Speaker, were subjected to listening to this litany of promises, thought that it would take that long for them to be realized?

**Mr. Hopkins:** Mr. Speaker, during the course of my speech I dealt very succinctly with the confidence building measure that my honourable colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell talked about. He also talked about the attitude of co-operation and federal co-operativeness. I would say to him that this Bill absolutely destroys, as I said in my speech, not only the credibility of the Minister of Finance, but certainly it destroys absolutely any attempt even to bring in confidence-building measures from now on between the provinces of Canada and the federal Government. The Hon. Member mentioned confidence building. The thing that a Government must have, and certainly the thing that a Minister of Finance must have, is credibility with the people of Canada.

How can the present Finance Minister stand up over here in opposition in 1982 and say what a terrible thing it is to cut back on transfers of payments to the provinces of Canada, that it is predatory federalism—that is what he called it—and then turn around and when in power do the very thing he thought was so terrible when he sat in opposition? That is not a confidence building measure.

I would also say to my hon. friend from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, in answer to his question about whether or not the Conservative promise of social policy measures is being breached by this Bill C-96; well, of course, it is being breached.

Social policy depends, as he said, upon the proper instruments. The practical people of this world—and I am speaking of people other, obviously, than this Conservative Government—realize that you can only keep promises in the social policy areas of Government by using, as he put it, the proper instruments. The proper instruments are dollars and cents. The Government will come back and say it does not have the dollars and cents, it must pay off the deficit. If that is the