

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

• (1530)

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-60, an act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance; and Motions Nos. 1, 2 and 4 (p. 9352).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The question is on Motion No. 1. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 76(8), a recorded division on the motion is differed.

The vote on Motion No. 1 will also apply to Motions Nos. 2 and 4 in the name of the hon. member for Essex-Windsor. We shall now proceed to the consideration of Motion No. 3.

[English]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor) moved:

Government Orders

Motion No. 3

That Bill C-60 be amended in clause 5 by striking out line 36 at page 6 and substituting the following therefor:

“1993, and”

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is certainly the most important sets of amendments I would like to see this House adopt.

We heard from officials, as we reviewed this particular piece of legislation with respect to equalization payments, that this particular bill came out of a wide discussion of all transfer payments across the board, not just transfer payments with respect to equalization, but transfer payments with respect to the Established Program Financing system. It provides money for health and post-secondary education, and also transfer payments with respect to the Canada Assistance Program. Those transfers from the federal government cover the cost of various programs such as day care assistance and support for welfare recipients. They cover a range of different programs that help people with disabilities, who are in poverty and facing some of the problems created by the recession in this country.

This bill deals with one part of the transfer payment program: the equalization part. It does not deal with the other key parts: the transfers for health, the transfers for post-secondary education, and the transfers under the Canada Assistance Program.

What we are saying with this amendment is: Yes, let us let the equalization payments go through for the temporary two-year period which this bill establishes for them, but let us take the transfers that are equally crucial to provinces across the country and put the pressure on this government to see to it that it comes up with answers to improve these transfers. Let us see to it that these transfers actually get treated in a fair way for all provinces in this country.

We have suggested that this particular clause which deals with income tax revenue guarantees not be extended for the two years but simply be extended for one year so as to say very plainly to the government, on the part of Parliament, that there must be an answer to the transfer payment inequities in this country within the next year.