

nate aspects of the legislation before us. These fee increases which must be paid back on the basis of a loan make it even more difficult for women since they still earn less in their jobs, once they get them.

Let me note a problem in a related area, funding for research. Strictly speaking, the provisions in the Bill before us concern operating grants. But it is the professors in the same universities who are affected by cutbacks and freezes in research funding either in the natural sciences or social sciences and the humanities. Both of these areas have been affected. Professors, researchers and graduate students who work with them have been hurt. At the same time, funding that universities have received to support their operating grants by being able to have adequate research grants which they could count on is being cut back.

What should we do about this? First, we must recognize that there is a crisis and that the measures needed to address it must be serious and vigorous. The Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam has proposed a task force on post-secondary education with representatives from the institutions of post-secondary education and both levels of government. We must first admit that there is a crisis and then go back to the drawing board to work out a new system that will ensure that the universities are adequately funded.

Further, the Hon. Member has proposed a joint emergency fund with the provinces to deal with the immediate crisis. We could start with the \$100 million within this legislation. Rather than saving it or diverting it to other sources, it could be put back into this fund. The \$75 million promised to the Department of National Defence for young people, effectively for training, is money that could be more effectively spent by giving it to the institutions of post-secondary education.

As a number of my colleagues have mentioned, there is, of course, the sources of funding going to industry for all kinds of cushy grants that allow jobs to go out of the country and allow companies to take over firms elsewhere instead of building employment opportunities and the labour force here in Canada. This money could be far better spent dealing with the crisis of post-secondary education here.

This is not the time for cutbacks in post-secondary education. This is the time to be thinking of the future and addressing the economic problems we face. The economy will never be better than the people who work in it.

We are facing increasingly tough international competition. Our competitors are paying attention to scientific and university education while we are not. We have the challenge of technological change in the 1980s and 1990s which is not being dealt with.

Before closing, I suggest that special measures are needed for a rather small but significant group. There are people who are finally graduating from universities with their Ph.Ds but finding there are no jobs. Even with expanding numbers there are freezes in faculty hiring. These are highly trained and dedicated young people who cannot get academic jobs. We must provide them with a way to remain in touch with their

### *Established Programs Financing*

academic colleagues. Perhaps this could be done through part-time appointments or fellowships so that their skills will not be lost, and then when there is an expansion, as we hope will happen, their talents will not have been lost and we will not have to retool from scratch.

This is the time for a vigorous and imaginative approach. We must look to the future and support our young people who are in institutions of post-secondary education. We must admit that there is a crisis and deal with it seriously. Our young people, our universities and colleges are too important to be neglected, as this Bill would do. The Government must treat this as a crisis and provide the money. It is a good investment. If not, it is promising despair and frustration to a whole generation of young people.

● (1230)

**Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977.

While I was in my riding last week, I heard on the radio about some of the things that are happening in British Columbia. I heard the Minister responsible for science and technology of the province say that UBC would be increasing its tuition fees by as much as 33 per cent and that if students could not afford the fees, possibly they could go to other universities. We are setting up a class system of universities in this country today, Mr. Speaker, where only the rich will be able to receive the benefits of post-secondary education.

I represent a British Columbia riding which lies on the border of Alberta. Students from that area have to go 400 or 500 miles to Vancouver in order to attend university. The cost of accommodation alone is often beyond their reach.

The Government brought in the six and five restraint program and applied it to the Public Service sector to begin with, then to the indexing of pensions and family allowances and now it is being applied to school costs and maintenance. This Bill will limit the increase in funds for the provinces to 6 per cent in 1983 and to 5 per cent in 1984. This is at a time when the greatest number of unemployed are the youth of the country, when technology is entering the workplace, and when university education is essential for our young people. Many of them are finding that unless they have university education they do not meet the requirements of the workplace.

In this House we talk about fairness and equality in the workplace but we find that our youth, especially young girls coming out of high school, will have no opportunity to get a university education and, as a consequence, will find it tougher and tougher to enter the workplace.

The Province of British Columbia has just announced the closing of the David Thompson College in Nelson. This means that people from the interior of British Columbia will be denied access to college programs. It is not only the federal Government that is reducing the amount of money to be put into these programs, but the province is not recognizing its responsibilities either. It is a Conservative province that has