

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

of reaching a point beyond which it may not be worth salvaging. The Ontario Hospital Association has estimated the total hospital deficit for the year ending March 1986 as being roughly \$50 million. With this cut-back of \$2 billion over five years, those hospitals will fall short of making their commitments. The hospitals cannot simply stop paying their mortgage debts or any of their operating debts. They cannot simply cut back on staff without decreasing services. They cannot cut back on the research and teaching that is done for the benefit of people not only from Canada but from all over the world without the quality of that research and teaching declining.

It has been pointed out that there are very few empty spaces in Ontario post-secondary institutes. For example, at the University of Waterloo's electrical engineering program, no student was accepted with less than a 90 per cent average in grade 13. The schools are being very selective. Yet with cuts like this, we will lose some of those students as well. Last year, 2,125 people applied to Queen's Law School for some 150 positions. If we support these cuts, institutions like those will have to take fewer students.

The University of Toronto has announced it is closing its faculty of architecture. That faculty is almost 100 years old and has served not only the City of Toronto and Canada as a whole but the entire world as one of the leading schools of architecture. People who have studied there have become city planners and architects in many cities in Canada, the United States and abroad. However, the University of Toronto has been forced to close that faculty because of the cuts already made by the previous Liberal Government. Now further damage will be done by the Conservative Government which may be recycling an old Liberal piece of legislation and taking responsibility for it itself. If that is not so, then the Liberals had taken an early leaf from the Conservative book and had put forward Conservative legislation which is now being endorsed by the Conservative Government itself.

● (1600)

There is a better way, and my colleague, the Hon. Member for New Westminster—Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), referred to it. Those of us who were in the forces during World War II and came out at the end of it and looked at the options offered to us by the Government of the day, remember that the slogan which every Party had to adopt was the slogan of full employment. We were six years away from the Depression, from the "dirty thirties". The one thing everyone agreed on was that we were not going back to mass unemployment. For any Government to get elected in 1945, it had to promise full employment. Part of the full employment package was a full education package, and part of the specific package for the veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs was university education. There were other options. One could go into farming. One could go into small business. One could build a house. There was a certain amount available under each of those headings, and there was a certain amount available for university education.

I well remember many of my fellow students at Queen's University, many whom would never have got to university if it had not been for the monthly living allowance and tuition fees which were provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We had to study. We had to make a certain grade in order to continue. That was fair and reasonable, and nobody complained. I also remember that some of the graduates of Queen's University, some of those who would not have got there without that help, became leaders in Canada in the academic world, in the medical world, in the sports world, in business, in politics, and in international affairs. Some of the best minds of the country were given the opportunity to show their quality by the allowances given by the Department of Veterans Affairs to students then. It was a good investment; it was a very good investment. It was money very, very well spent by the Government of that day with the full support of the people.

That would be a good investment today as well. I want to couple with that another investment which was made almost at the same time. When I was in the army I received medical care. Fortunately I did not need very much; I did not need it very often. There were some minor things. When I sprained an ankle on my first parachute jump, I was examined by the medical officer of the station to see whether or not I could continue with the training. Fortunately I could. When I had a little dental trouble I got treatment. All this was at the expense of taxpayers. I did not pay a cent. I was healthy. The medical officers in the forces were doing their job. They had the same goal that we had. They wanted a healthy army. We wanted to be a healthy army. We were. It was the same with the other forces.

When the Government and the country understand that we want healthy people, they know that the most efficient way is to pay for it rather than to tell sick people: "Hurry up and get well". The rate of expenditure per capita on health care in Canada is about half the per capita rate of health expenditure in the United States. Yet, the rate of mortality and morbidity in Canada is lower than in the United States. In other words, for fewer dollars we get more health, since we instituted a strong measure of publicly supported health care in Canada, compared with the United States which leans much more to the do it yourself, everyone for himself and devil take the hindmost kind of health care. In the United States, the rate of morbidity and mortality is much higher than in Canada. Therefore, it is false economy for the Government to claim that in the interests of lowering what it claims to be the deficit, in the interests of making our economy more healthy, it will take measures which will make our people less healthy and will reduce educational opportunities for our young people. It is a grave mistake. I hope the Government, even at this late moment, will still have some second thoughts in the matter and not carry on such a foolish program of cuts.

Members of that Party went up and down the country two years ago promising that if they were elected they would restore the funding the Liberal Government cut out. They