

*Established Programs Financing*

● (1140)

As we consider the phenomenon which is occurring now of people going back to university later on in life, I feel it is important that we have some sort of comprehensive program wherein we address ourselves to this whole question of lifelong learning. With the development of high technology, it is necessary for people to become familiar with the way computers, word processors, all of these machines of the 20th century operate. It is important that we place emphasis along these lines.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), has addressed herself to the whole question of co-ordinating some of the aspects of post-secondary education. She has emphasized the necessity of having a Minister designated who will pursue and follow the whole area of post-secondary education. I would underline that particular suggestion because I believe it is one worthy of consideration and should not only be taken seriously but should be implemented.

As has been mentioned, there are too many different Departments involved with different aspects of post-secondary education, whether it be research and development or the Secretary of State. There are too many people with their fingers in the post-secondary education pie, yet there is no hand which co-ordinates the way these different fingers are delving in and out of the pie. I believe it is important for us to see that some of these things are reviewed, even the way the various associations, such as the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, AUCC, operate. I believe there should be reviews conducted of just exactly the way this whole system of post-secondary education is functioning.

From my own experience on the special parliamentary committee dealing with the participation of visible minorities in Canadian society, I know when matters are raised such as AUCC, many people are unfamiliar with the role it has in terms of informing people regarding the recognition of degrees from foreign universities and so on. I believe that organizations such as this have been remarkably weak in their ability to really keep our Canadian society informed in the way it should be informed regarding a lot of these issues.

In Manitoba we have found that a lot of the federal slack in this area of funding for post-secondary education has to be absorbed by the provincial Government. This has been done, in a way, because the provincial Government has made it a priority to see that there is accessibility to post-secondary education and, to my knowledge, there has been no increase in tuition fees since Premier Pawley's Government came into office. So there has been a recognition on the part of the provincial Government of this need. I wish there were a similar sort of recognition at the federal level.

I know that all aspects of education in Manitoba have been endorsed by various organizations. In fact, in a letter from the

Manitoba Association of School Trustees it was stated that that association was generally pleased with the provincial funding levels in 1983, and it emphasized the concern that the Minister of Education, Maureen Hemphill, has demonstrated in her commitment, along with the Government, to education in Manitoba. I believe it is important in this particular day and age when we have this increase in enrolment, keeping in mind the whole area of lifelong learning, that more money rather than less be assigned to this area of post-secondary education.

I would also like to mention that in addition to post-secondary education, and the items which I have underlined here, Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill also affects the area of health. I would like to raise one or two issues in this regard which are of concern to the people in Manitoba and to the elected Members of our provincial Government. Our own provincial Minister of Health, the Hon. Larry Desjardins, has expressed concern over the present inadequacies of federal-provincial proposals. In fact, at this time the federal Government is assuming only about 39 per cent of the costs which relate to health. In discussions which have been held, the federal Government has been willing in certain areas to go on a fifty-fifty basis. This has been in such areas as hospitals. However, the federal Government has been vacillating in certain other aspects of health care which we can consider to be part of the overall package of health care for the citizens of Manitoba. I refer to such things as the personal care homes and dental coverage where there are insurance programs. But the federal Government has not been willing to go on a fifty-fifty basis. The New Democratic Party Government of Manitoba has wanted these aspects of personal care homes and dental coverage to be included in any agreement.

There would appear to be a great difference of opinion, then, between the federal Government and the provincial Government as to what really constitutes health care; what is the nature and scope of health care. I urge the federal Government to broaden its definition somewhat in terms of some things it is considering with regard to health care.

It is with this in mind that I wanted to raise some of the concerns I have, as a Member of Parliament, with regard to Bill C-12. I feel that rather than cutting back, we should be making great strides in some of these areas. I refer to some of the issues which I have raised in the House with regard to some types of multicultural programs which we should be funding at the university level. I have specifically referred to regional research and resource centres in multiculturalism so that the people of Canada would become more aware of the richness of the resources which Canada has. Of course, one of the richest resources we have is our whole multicultural heritage. I have mentioned on other occasions the model I found at Washington State University, in its funding of programs with regard to comparative American cultures. I believe it is important for us to see that there is a greater dissemination, awareness and exposure to the multicultural history of