

Columbia on Thursday last, March 29 in which he said then, and I quote:

It has been suggested, naively—

I wonder who is naive.

—that the Government of Canada itself is restricting accessibility by applying the six and five restraint measures to its transfers in support of post-secondary education.

He thinks we are naive. It is his Members, Liberals, and the Conservatives to our right who voted against the amendment which would have moved toward a solution of this problem when proposed by my Party yesterday.

**Mr. Malone:** Tell us about the polls.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** Do you want to talk about the Czechs, too? It is typical that the Conservatives want to play Trivial Pursuit when we are talking about the life and death of people and their livelihood from one end of this country to the other. No wonder they want to go off on their fancy diversions. People are losing their jobs, their livelihood. People are losing their lives because of the kind of policies that this Liberal Government is now pursuing and which the Conservative Opposition keeps urging upon them—cut back, cut back, cut back, and restrain them around the neck until dead. All the nice words in the world will not help them and the people we represent. They had the opportunity to vote for something of substance that would have moved us part-way toward a solution. They simply threw it aside, for whatever reasons. What the Conservatives did when voting against the amendment which my Party proposed was to put their Party loyalty to their colleagues in the British Columbia government ahead of the interests of the people they represent. That is a despicable action. I have no other word for it.

**Mr. Malone:** You have no other words.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** There we get a great contribution from the Conservative Member again.

Yesterday we debated the report stage of this Bill, a Bill which will impact severely and encourage more regressive policies such as we have seen in British Columbia and many other Conservative-dominated provinces. At the report stage of that Bill yesterday there were four NDP Members and only one Conservative who took part in the debate, while they outnumber us in this House of Commons by three to one.

**Mr. Malone:** Any one of us would.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** When they have an opportunity to say or do something, they are either silent or vote with their friends, the Liberals, to continue the status quo and see university students, teachers and communities continue to wither and die on the vine. Why is it? I am not in a position to answer. Perhaps some of them will.

We have opportunities to move forward in an attempt to provide better conditions for learning in this country. We will not further those ends and the welfare of the young people whom we represent and their communities by passing a Bill

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such as C-12 which is now before us. It moves in completely the wrong direction. It is no use for the Liberals to say that because the Government of British Columbia is punishing the people of B.C.—including the students of that province—that they will get even and punish the people of B.C. as well. That is not of much comfort to the people there. It is perhaps too late to appeal to the Government to change its mind in order to do in a reasonable and structured way what it ought to have done long ago, namely, attempt to insist that those we represent get a return that they can see and feel for the dollars that we expend on their behalf through this Parliament.

Provincial governments are being encouraged to get away with the murder of institutions and communities. It is time that a regime which allows and encourages that should end. We ask all Members of this House to search their conscience and decide whether six and five, that magnificent PR term that some flack dreamed up, is a proper direction for this Parliament to move. For the future of our country, I ask them to look at the facts. If they will but see what government after government is doing to the future of our young people and the existence of our communities, I am confident that they will join with us in voting against this inequitable and unfair piece of legislation. More than just an impact upon students and teachers is at stake; the impact on my home community has been devastating in broad economic terms. More than a dozen conferences scheduled for my community of 10,000 people this summer have been cancelled because the provincial Government has closed the institution where they would have taken place. We cannot afford that, Mr. Speaker. It is but one of the other effects on our communities of the measures taken by provincial Governments as a result of the negative encouragement they are receiving from the federal Government.

● (1650)

I ask all Hon. Members to vote against this unwise Bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** There follows a ten-minute period for questions and comments. If there are no questions, I recognize the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) for debate.

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on Bill C-12 which deals with federal-provincial fiscal arrangements, federal post-secondary education and the federal health contributions.

In the course of this debate we have argued, and continue to argue, that at a time when it is apparent to everyone except the federal and provincial Governments that there is a need in the country to expand what we are doing in post-secondary education, the federal and provincial government are actually cutting back on funding for those institutions.

The Government has also ignored our pleas for improved educational opportunities for women. Two-thirds of all new entrants to the labour force this decade will be women. Two-thirds of working women are concentrated in support type occupations, in the clerical and service sectors, occupations which are the most vulnerable to technological change.