

per cent over the next four years. We have declining funding and substantially increasing enrolment.

We have to ask then, why enrolment is going up in the universities at this time? Is it because of population? The main reason for increased enrolment in universities and colleges is the fact that there are no jobs for young people, Mr. Speaker. They are either staying in university longer or returning to university and college for additional training, hoping that when they graduate there may be some place where they can find the security of a job.

There is another reason enrolment has increased, and that is the changing technology with which we must come to grips. Not only young people are affected. Twenty-five percent of enrolments in universities is for people over 35 years of age. People are returning to university or going for the first time because they hope they will be able to improve their lifestyle.

The situation is one of declining funding and increasing enrolment. One of the fall-outs is that we see increased tuition fees all across the country. It is projected that they will go up by 30 per cent in British Columbia, 25 per cent in Saskatchewan and the same to a lesser degree is going to happen in every province. In order to make up that short-fall, in part the universities and colleges are turning to the individual students and asking them to bear the higher cost. Many young people are unable to get summer jobs or part-time work and so simply will not have the funds to meet the increased tuition if the present situation continues and if a bill such as this is allowed to pass.

I have known from personal experience how universities are trying to cope with the reduction in funding. They have been forced to cut back services at all levels, and that in turn reduces the quality of education which is being given to people across the country. That is a very serious issue, Mr. Speaker. Once our standards begin to go down so will our standing in every other area that we try to reach in the world. Whether it is sales promotion, trade, diplomatic arrangements, whatever it may be, they will all be affected domestically and internationally once we allow our educational standards to slip.

● (1540)

I have noticed that this is already having an impact on Queen's University. The inadequacy of funding is very much having an impact on the day to day life of the university and, obviously, on its students and staff. For instance, the volume of library acquisitions is half of what it was ten years ago. There are still just as many books, just as many important pieces being written, but there is not the funding to acquire them. Ten years ago 19,000 journals and 50,000 books were purchased by Queen's University in Kingston. This year it purchased 7,000 journals and 24,000 new books. Yet, the output has increased. I hear comments all the time that laboratory equipment is now out of date and is becoming more so compared, for instance, with what private industry is able to acquire.

One of the most serious of situations, because it affects everyone and everything, is that routine upkeep of the build-

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ings is not being done to the same extent; less than half of what was done ten years ago. Perhaps most important of all, the student-teacher ratio keeps increasing. In 1973 the ratio was 14 students to one professor or teacher. Today that ratio is 20 students to one professor or teacher, and it is growing. It makes it more difficult for the student to receive the individual attention which he or she requires in order to be able to handle the courses and absorb the knowledge which is necessary to graduate.

There is a very real crisis, Sir, in our post-secondary system, and at the very time when there is so much evidence of what is happening, what does the federal Government do? It brings forward a bill such as Bill C-12 which is going to reduce the funding that would otherwise be available to our post-secondary institutions. There have been many organizations and associations, groups of students and of staff and people involved with universities and community colleges across the country who have protested what is going on. When the Canadian Association of University Teachers appeared before the Macdonald Royal Commission, it very eloquently outlined its concerns. It said then, as it has said many times since, that there is a funding crisis in the universities. Why will the Government not listen?

Just the other day I received a letter from the Canadian Association of University Teachers which commented on this very bill. The CAUT said this, and I quote:

The CAUT has opposed and continues to oppose this misguided legislative action. We do not feel Bill C-12 is in any way the answer to the current and sizeable problems of the university system of Canada.

The CAUT has urged all levels of government to begin real discussions on the serious problems of higher education, but until now, we continue to be caught in the federal-provincial battles.

Enclosed with the letter for my reading was an editorial which it had received recently. It was taken from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* of February 22, 1984. It outlined the way in which funding is being increased in United States colleges and universities at the present time. It said that Governors budget more money for colleges to spur the economy and make up for past reductions. There is this difference in the situation of our great neighbour to the south, our great competitor. Here we are turning our back on the very step which it is taking. The CAUT raises the concerns of the teaching staff across the country.

As I mentioned, these bills, the Canada Health Act and this one dealing with post-secondary education, are going through the House at the same time. I have had people speak to me about the concerns they have about the funding of medical schools in particular. Both bills affect the funding of medical schools, whether it is through post-secondary education or lack of research moneys coming to teaching hospitals and medical schools through the Canada Health Act. They are being hit doubly.

Yesterday I was glad to see the Government did accept pretty well the same amendment which I had initially put forward on accountability. We will now enhance the accountability of the funding which is transferred from the federal