

Oral Questions

a charge of anti-dumping and proceed just as firms in the United States can do the same *vis-à-vis* us.

So grow up and live in the real world and don't ask silly questions such as are we allowing—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Haldimand—Norfolk.

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, they sure could not apply for that because they knew you didn't have the guts to stand up for them.

We all know that the Canadian steel industry is far more efficient than its U.S. counterpart and that we could easily compete if there was truly a level playing field.

Why does the government not act now, stop this unfair trading practice and allow our Canadian steel companies that same open access to the U.S. market?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, our steel companies have free access to the U.S. steel market.

As a matter of fact, the fairness of the way our steel companies operated was recognized by the United States when it did not try to require Canada to become subject to a voluntary restraint agreement such as many other countries had to enter into.

With respect to my guts, usually the complaint is that they are too large.

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EDUCATION

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance.

Since the minister and his government refused to cancel the goods and services tax as it applies to education and refused to restore the transfer payments to education, will the minister change student aid to ensure that Canadians are not denied an appropriate education and to ensure that the student debt is not increased?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. gentleman is getting carried away.

Our transfers to the provinces this year will increase. We are going to transfer more money this year than last year. Where we are capping in Canada Assistance Program, for example, we are doing it only in the provinces that do not receive equalization payments.

Not only do we provide many billions to the provinces to apply to their own priorities—it is not for us to decide how they should spend their money—we also provide them with equalization payments which they again can apply to their own priorities. We do not choose their programs for them.

[Translation]

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister. Since neither the minister nor his government wants to do anything about the GST as it affects education or to cancel the huge cuts in education funding or to improve financial assistance for students, is he prepared to restore the number of summer jobs for students to the same level as in previous years?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I do not accept the member's statements claiming that we are cutting and decreasing. We are reducing the growth. We are doing so in order that this government and this country can maintain their ability to help those in need. If we did not take this action, as we did in the budget, paying special attention to the disadvantaged and the poorer provinces, we could quickly let this country drift into an intolerable financial situation, as you did when you formed the government, which would prevent us from giving our support. We will continue to support the provinces massively for all the programs of which you spoke.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence who recently attended a NATO meeting in Kananaskis.

Many Canadians were disappointed with that meeting and that the minister of defence, on behalf of the government, did not show any Canadian leadership on the issue of the modernization of nuclear weapons.