

*Canada Student Loans Act*

some opinions at a variant from those already uttered. For instance, I was astonished when I heard the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Turner), Member of the Administration, say that it was unfortunate to note that in the case of Quebec, there lacked what he called reciprocity. As if, for instance, Quebec students benefitting from certain loans, were to be deprived if they were to go and study in other Canadian institutions or in institutions outside Canada. That is not normal. On the whole, the purpose of this legislation is to help education, and it seems to me all opportunities should be given in any branch of learning which a Canadian student might wish to undertake. I myself have in my files many cases of students from my constituency who have complained of what might be called discrimination.

Now, with regard to the federal government, I think that this discrimination is much less prevalent and that there might not be any reason to intervene strongly even if there are still some cases which should be corrected.

The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) stated that our universities are full of students who do not seem qualified. I do not know if that is the case out west, but in the provinces which I had the opportunity to visit, namely Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, I do not think that it is. I think that our institutions of higher learning are full, that is true, but it cannot be said that they are full of unqualified young people, far from it, because I go as far as thinking that quite a large number who would be qualified, who would like to continue their studies are refused because facilities are lacking. It might be a good idea then to step up also the financing programs for the development of universities or the construction of new schools.

Mr. Speaker, a little earlier I listened to the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) who said this, more or less: Each government should mind its own business. He repeats it differently: Cobbler stick to your last. There seems to be something illogical in what he was saying. After stating that he had nothing to complain about as far as the province of Quebec was concerned, since it is not covered by this bill, he insisted strongly on the fact that the provincial jurisdiction should not be interfered with.

I agree with him, just the same, that if our friend from the Ralliement Cr ditiste succeeded in solving what can be called the financial problem, or in operating the financial

reform, there might be fewer problems, but I am not competent enough in that field and I have no suggestion to offer him. I listen to him with great interest but I must admit just the same that I do not see yet any practical conclusion, even if I see some very theoretical ones, to his undertaking.

Mr. Speaker, I come to another remark made a while ago by a member of the opposition. He said, and I had noticed that myself in the legislation, that those loans must be granted simply for students who register in institutions approved by the provincial governments. I feel that such an intervention is not warranted. I think that the limits should be extended. I even believe that if it wanted to no longer lay itself open to criticism with regard to constitutional matters, the federal government should try not to interfere and the provinces should do the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word about the attitude of my colleague, the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard). Hon. members might find amusing that, apparently, I do not share his opinion; this simply proves that we are two independent members but, by and large, my opinion is not so different from his. Now, my colleague, the hon. member for Sherbrooke, a constitutional law professor, an expert in constitutional law and a perfectionist, at least in matters pertaining to the constitution, somewhat reminds me of what goes on in most Christian religions. Some Christians try, in good faith, to be as virtuous as they can, although not necessarily trying to be heroes; on the other hand, some religious orders tend toward perfection, often with an exemplary stubbornness which is not always realistic.

I think the hon. member for Sherbrooke is probably right in raising his voice every time constitutional matters come up in the house, but the laymen, and I among them, who are not too familiar with the fine points he discusses, believe he should be a little more realistic.

Students today should not be deprived of what they are entitled to, while endless constitutional disputes go on. As far as I know, these arguments have been going on for the past 30 years and there are just as many problems today as there were then or will probably be for the next 25 or 30 years. Therefore, I think that today's generation should not be deprived, on account of constitutional scruples, of that to which it is entitled.