

Canada Student Loans Act

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): I can assure the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that it will make my dynamic consideration even more dynamic.

BANKRUPTCY ACT

AMENDMENTS TO CORRECT ABUSES AND FOR ORDERLY PAYMENT OF DEBTS

Hon. L. T. Pennell (for the Minister of Justice) moved the third reading of Bill No. S-17, to amend the Bankruptcy Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Hon. L. T. Pennell (for the Minister of Justice) moved:

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint that house that the House of Commons has passed the following bill, namely Bill No. S-17, to amend the Bankruptcy Act, with certain amendments to which concurrence is desired.

Motion agreed to.

CANADA STUDENT LOANS ACT

PROVISIONS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS, ETC.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-197, to amend the Canada Student Loans Act.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I was not present at the time the resolution preceding this bill was accepted by the house, and this afternoon I should like to make a few remarks of the type that would normally be made at the time of consideration of the resolution. They will not infringe upon the general rules of debate.

Several general observations were made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North regarding the subject matter of attendance at universities and the desirability of university education for all Canadians. That hon. member, like the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard, read a number of statistics and made reference to a specific report. These hon. members, as members of the New Democratic Party are prone to do, arrived at conclusions in respect of university education on the basis of certain statistical information. In doing so I think they painted a false picture in respect of the desire of Canadians generally to attend university.

We know very well that on the basis of academic ability a regrettable number of students are attending universities who

should not be seeking a university education. It is true that many do not know whether they are able to obtain a university education until they have tried, but with proper guidance and investigation at the high school level many of them would never have gone to university because they would have realized they would be wasting their own time and the time of the teachers, and unnecessarily using already crowded university facilities.

Instead of looking for ways of providing free tuition at the university level we should be finding ways and means of increasing construction of adequate university facilities and providing increased salaries to induce more and more men and women to take up teaching in universities as a profession. What good does it do to bring thousands and thousands of young men and women into the universities when the present facilities are not adequate to provide them with the education they should receive when they get there?

I should like to correct what I think is a wrong impression. It seems to me it is wrong to conclude that because certain groups of Canadians earn so much money, a certain percentage of their children should attend university. It is wrong to conclude that the children of individuals who have greater economic means have an advantage over those without means so far as attending university is concerned. It is my opinion that of those students who have the academic and intellectual ability to obtain a university education, there are few who cannot find the means. They would appreciate it all the more.

• (3:30 p.m.)

There are any number of members of this house whose parents did not have any economic advantages and who worked their way through university in the 1930's when there was far more economic deprivation than there is today. Today, in this affluent society, we know that in some universities bursaries and foundation funds go begging because there are not proper applicants or candidates for them. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think it is time we got our heads out of the clouds in so far as university education is concerned. Let us say yes, we will provide the funds, we will provide the buildings, we will provide the teachers for these people, but first of all they must have a genuine desire to go to university and not merely look upon it as an extension of, shall we say, a period of easy existence.

If there are cases—and I think there would be relatively few today—of students who are