

answer; it is debate and counter-debate without a length of time being assigned to answers or even to questions. Under these circumstances, a very provocative question will bring a provocative and lengthy reply.

The Chair is as concerned as any Hon. Member. Today there were 9 questions, not 10. Yesterday there were 17. The Chair does its best to call Hon. Members, including Members of the Cabinet and senior Members on both sides, to account and to call to their attention what it does to Members on the back benches when the questions and answers and supplementary questions that are not supplementary questions but supplementary speeches, take place in the House.

The Chair is the servant of the House and is as anxious as anyone else to bring in more rules governing the length of time in which questions can be asked and answers given. I suggest that this is a matter for the House Leaders to consider, or perhaps the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization.

The Hon. Member for Pembina on a supplementary observation.

Mr. Elzinga: Mr. Speaker, when I share my concerns with you that does not affect my high regard and high respect for the Chair and the high respect and high regard I have for you as an individual, Sir. I say that very sincerely. I realize the difficult role that you have to play, but I just ask for some acknowledgement and respect for the role that we have to play as well.

Mr. Speaker: No previous incumbent of the Chair in recent times spent more time on the back benches than the present incumbent.

MR. McDERMID—CAMPING ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder how a Member would go about addressing the problem of camping on the front lawn of this beautiful House of Commons or how we might remove the unsightly camping that is going on at the present time. It is a disgrace to the grounds of the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is aware of the Hon. Member's views. The Chair would again invite the Hon. Member to make use of a Standing Order 21 statement on the matter.

Mr. McDermid: That has been done many times.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is as concerned as is the Hon. Member and has raised it in appropriate places.

Mr. McDermid: Where are the appropriate places?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon).

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you might give consideration to the possibility of inviting all Canadians to

camp on the front lawn of the Parliament Buildings this summer?

Mr. Speaker: We are stretching petitions a little far at this point. The Chair has made note of this, but the Chair would also hope that other very senior Members of the House who carry responsibility would make note of the views expressed.

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CONSTITUTION ACTS, 1867-1984

MEASURE RESPECTING TENURE OF SENATORS

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-231, an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 (tenure of Senators).

He said: Mr. Speaker, the recommendations of the Special Joint Committee on Senate Reform would create three classes of Senators; in contrast this Bill would create one class of Senators by making all existing appointments subject to a nine-year term or retirement at 75 years of age, whichever occurred first. Because this amendment would not affect the powers of the Senate and the method of selecting Senators, it could be passed by Parliament exclusively without recourse to the general procedure for amendment requiring provincial approval.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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● (1510)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 42, 339 and 357, revised.

[Text]

CANADA STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM

Question No. 42—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. By province and for each of the last five years for which figures are available, what (a) was the contingent liability of the Government for the Canada Student Loans Program (b) were the statutory expenditures related to the Program?

2. For each of the same years what (a) were the costs, by province, related to (i) defaulted loans (ii) interest payable while the borrowers were in school (b) amount was either paid to the government of the Province of Quebec or foregone via a transfer of tax points?

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): 1. (a) The contingent liability under the Canada Student Loans Program is based on reports from the banks and the individual data pertaining to the provinces is thus not available. The figures for Canada as a whole are: