This transformation, which requires difficult but necessary adjustments in economic and institutional structures, is a critical ingredient in the adoption of democratic values. A key element will be the formulation of comprehensive economic reform programs in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund.

Ukrainian membership in the IMF and the World Bank, which Canada has been working to achieve as quickly as possible, will enhance its ability to implement such reforms as effectively as possible and with as little disruption as possible.

The conference to which the member referred did not take place. However, Ukraine has met with other republics as well as with representatives of western governments on a number of occasions to discuss the issue of the treatment of the external debts of the former Soviet Union. This is a matter of some importance to Canada as one of the major creditors of the U.S.S.R. The loans extended in good faith to the U.S.S.R. will continue to be serviced despite the changes in political structures. This is important not just for the creditors involved but for the former republics as well, since they have an interest in maintaining their creditworthiness in order to ensure continued access to financing from private as well as public sources in the west. After extensive consultations and discussions with representatives of the seven major industrial countries last autumn, most of the republics of the former U.S.S.R. did agree to acknowledge formally in a memorandum of understanding their responsibility for the debts which the Soviet Union had incurred. They also agreed to designate an agent to work with western creditors to service those debts. Ukraine has recently agreed to sign the memorandum and we welcome this as an important step to promote Ukraine's full participation in international commercial and financial markets.

[*English*]

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, on November 29, I rose in this House and actually addressed two questions to two separate ministers.

The first one dealt with information or data the Secretary of State through the student loans programs still uses which I believe disenfranchises the number of students who have wanted to take up post-secondary education. I think this is a serious matter.

In response the minister promised that there would be a thorough review of the student loan system and felt that it was necessary in that the program had been started 27 years ago and had not been changed since then. He also added he was close to tabling the completely revised version of the student loan system that would meet the primary objective of the program, which was to help students in need to finish their education and become full-fledged Canadian citizens.

What has happened since then, almost four months ago? The government decided to privatize student loans. The 3 per cent fee or tax on student loans is perhaps going to be cancelled. Unfortunately the students have been subjected to six months more of interest payments.

The second question dealt with a report that is entitled *Tradition in Education Toward a Vision of our Future* which includes a declaration of First Nations jurisdiction over education.

I wanted to know whether the minister had seen this report and what he thought of it. He had indicated that he was not familiar with it, but that when he and his officials had had an opportunity to complete an analysis he would be happy to review it and bring it forward at the appropriate time.

That was almost four months ago, and I ask: Where is the report? I should point out that this is not the first time that there has been a problem with this minister. For example, on February 13, certain chiefs of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs met with the minister to look at the question of social services for status Indian people off reserve. These people are suffering because of squabbling between the federal and provincial government. They indicated:

> We rightly expected to be received with due respect and a responsible and caring attitude from the Minister.

What happened? They referred to the minister and said:

> Instead, we were appalled and offended to receive from you an unwarranted, unsubstantiated and hysterical outburst of allegations and insinuations.

These particular chiefs went on and asked:

> I and my fellow Chiefs have been profoundly offended by the irresponsible generalized allegations and unprofessional conduct to which we were subjected by you. We feel that, at the very least, your personal apology is called for, along with an early opportunity to productively address with you the serious policy issues we have raised.