

million in its funding. The Government has been increasing its funding for graduate studies in science and technology. For that it should be commended, but it seems to be doing that by cutting back on assistance for social sciences.

We face a large number of very serious problems which have to be considered and studied, such as aging, unemployment, and the impact of microtechnology on employment. All of these need to be studied by people who have been trained in these fields. The Minister is saying we have to cut back on the number of graduate students who will be assisted in social sciences.

In the 1950s and 1960s when our universities were expanding, we did not have the trained people in Canada so we imported from other countries. By the 1990s many of our professors will retire, we will again have shortages and have to import people because of the shortsighted policies of the Government. I call on the Government to rethink its policy and to increase its funding for the social sciences.

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TOURISM

RECEPTION ACCORDED FLORIDA OFFICIAL BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, each year Canada's deficit with other countries in the tourist trade is some \$2 billion, causing a massive loss of Canadian jobs and capital. At a time when the Canadian Government is stressing that hospitality is the key to capturing a larger share of tourism, some Canadian customs officials—not all, maybe not most, but some—are undermining the industry by being inhospitable at border crossings.

A case in point concerns Barry Pitegoff, Director of Marketing Research for the Florida Division of Tourism, who entered Canada to address the annual meeting of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada this week in Charlottetown. Mr. Pitegoff was detained, his visiting rights were severely restricted, and he was made to feel unwelcome by customs officials, for no apparent reason.

I urge the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) and the Minister of State for Tourism (Mr. Smith) to collaborate on a program to sensitize customs officials to their role as goodwill ambassadors for Canada at border crossings. The first impression visitors have of our country should not be that which Mr. Pitegoff received. Instead, it should be one of welcome and eagerness to please, so that those visitors will return to Canada again and again.

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EDUCATION

STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in a study ten years ago

by Magnani of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1,005 first-year university students in eastern Canada were interviewed with the aim of correlating political knowledge with their socio-economic status, their gender, their perceived social class, and their political attitudinal variable.

Some disturbing observations were made. It was found that high socio-economic status males who defined themselves as upper class were more represented in the high political knowledge category, while women in a similar situation had very little political knowledge. Women who considered themselves as revolutionaries demonstrated a higher level of political knowledge than other youths, whereas men who defined themselves as revolutionaries fell into the category of politically uninformed individuals.

• (1410)

Another worrisome observation was that the young people who are expected to be the best educated in the country were very uninformed about the political authorities and organizations that are controlling their everyday life. Only half could answer correctly more than 25 per cent of the questions, and of these only 10 per cent could answer more than 11 of the 25 items—items which had been recently given wide representation in local media.

The suggestion was made that most of the youth in the sample studied would go to the voting booth and vote for the party or individual that impressed them most recently in terms of political propaganda. The study concluded that the outcome of national elections is decided more by political sloganeering and the emotional use of media, than by carefully reasoned solutions to socio-economic problems.

Mr. Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, for the third time I would like to emphasize the importance of signing an agreement between Quebec and Ottawa on grants earmarked for municipalities. Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of the fact, and all my Quebec colleagues regret, that as a result of the absence of such an agreement, the municipalities cannot receive these grants.

It seems that an agreement between Quebec and Ottawa is now possible, and has been since January 23 of this year. The Minister responsible announced last week he was waiting for the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to arrive, to discuss the signing of the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, allow me, on behalf of 1,200 municipalities in Quebec, to ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada and