

*Government Orders*

entirely clear to me from the Speaker's ruling as it pertains to the follow-up original signature.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the hon. member. I regret that this confusion has existed. I hope that it will not exist any further. I am very pleased to make it very clear to all hon. members that unless we change the rules, the signed copy must be received prior to the close-off time.

• (1250)

It means that in practice, if hon. members wish to notify the Table early by a fax, it is probably helpful. However, in order to come in within the prescribed time under the rules it will be necessary for a signed copy to be there by six o'clock.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, if I may, I suggest that perhaps it is time for the parliamentary committee to review the rule so that at the very least a written confirmation could be sent afterwards as long as the fax copy was sent on time.

I submit that there should be room to accommodate this new technology. It is my hope that Mr. Speaker will bring this to the attention of the appropriate committee to ensure that we reflect those changes in such a way as to modernize our institution to some degree.

**Mr. Speaker:** I accept the suggestion of the hon. member in the spirit in which it is given. I will consult with members and try to bring about that suggestion.

I remind hon. members that I think some careful thought will have to go into it. We would not want a situation where somebody who has put in a fax early, then a confirmed document and signature after the time, got into conflict with another member who had brought down the signed motion prior to the time.

There are some things that we could think about. I am sure that we can resolve the problem. I thank the hon. members.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Ottawa Centre has four minutes remaining for debate.

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, four minutes and 14 seconds if I recall correctly but we will call it four minutes.

This presentation deals with the question of the government's handling of Canada student loans. The last time I stood in this House to speak against the government proposals I used a number of examples. I made the case that the government should fulfil its promise when it comes to the 3 per cent tax it imposed on student loans.

I want to repeat the same request of the government. It must withdraw the 3 per cent tax on student loans. The Canada Student Loans Program must be a program that helps students in need. As well, the government must keep all of the students' support programs in place and as well, it must establish new programs that would help students who are in need.

It would mean that the government would approach provincial governments that might have some more programs or that might be thinking of introducing assistance programs. Nevertheless, it has always been and continues to be the responsibility of everybody to help students in need who want to move and progress.

The government must deplore the actions of the Ontario NDP government. It abandoned the student grants, it cut funding to students and institutions. As well, the government should deplore the actions of other levels of government, such as the Ontario NDP government when in a matter of two years it increased by over 10 per cent tuition fees imposed on students who want to pursue their education.

We on this side of the House are always called on to provide alternatives and options.

I want to provide an option to the government and it is to immediately strike some sort of an action plan whereby the government will bring together all of the different partners in the educational system, that is to say the provincial governments, representatives of school boards, parent organizations, the voluntary sector, the student population, representatives from the business sector, and so on, in order to deal with this incredible problem of access to education. Not only access to education at the post-secondary level, but access to education at every level.

Only through a proper strategy at the national level, and only through the co-operation and co-ordination of the federal government can we truly deal with the question of education and access to education in our society. That is why we have called on the government to take those actions and to deal with them appropriately. We can no longer afford to do the kinds of things we