

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the answer of the Prime Minister indicates the death knell of the vaunted university scholarship plan.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, that scheme is far from being dead.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I see; just dormant.

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Do the government plan to contribute financially to the recently announced expansion of medical, dental and nursing training facilities in Ontario, and in particular will they consider contributing the 50 per cent recommended by the Hall commission report?

STUDENT LOANS—INQUIRY AS TO NUMBER PARTICIPATING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I wonder whether the Minister of Finance has any recent figures as to the number of students who have taken advantage of the student loans program.

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have not an up to date assessment but a meeting has been called for about the middle of next month to discuss with provincial officials the effectiveness of the scheme and the way it is going. After that meeting has taken place I may have some figures, in which case I would be very glad to supply them.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): A supplementary question. When the minister is making his statement to the house to the student loans program I wonder whether he would have those figures broken down by provinces.

Mr. Gordon: I would be very glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe). Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Could the Minister of Finance tell us whether his department has handed over to the province of Quebec the share that is due to that province under the student loans program?

Could he tell the amount the province of Quebec received under this program?

[Mr. Pearson.]

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to do that. I would remind my hon. friend that the government of the province of Quebec is perfectly qualified and, believe me, it usually proceeds to look after the best interests of that province.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Minister of Finance mean to imply that members from Quebec ought not to ask questions in the house and that it is neither in their interest nor in the interest of the population to ask questions?

If that is what the Minister of Finance means to imply, Mr. Speaker, this arrogance—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understood the Minister of Finance to say the members from Quebec were extremely capable and efficient.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I agree with your statement, but that is not what the Minister of Finance said.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is no question of privilege here. There was no implication in the remarks of the minister; quite the contrary.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: When you read *Hansard* tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, you will see that there were grounds for the question of privilege.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

Whenever a Canadian student goes to the United States in order to carry on his schooling, can the students' assistance scheme be used in that case, so that the Canadian student attending an institution in the United States can take advantage of the loans guaranteed by the federal government?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if the university in question is designated by the province in question.