

*Canada Student Loans Act*

I think education should be supported everywhere. It is one of those motherhood qualities in which we all believe. Surely, when a group of people realize they did not receive sufficient education when at school and have the sense and vision to want to go back and pick up their education, they are doing a service not only to themselves but to society and to Canada. I do not think they should be excluded from the governmental assistance that is available because of these technicalities in respect of an act or because the regulations drawn under that act have not been drawn with sufficient latitude. I am glad the Minister without Portfolio chose to make his speech on third reading later in the debate rather than early and I hope therefore he will have a good word for those of us who have made this appeal at this time.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Order. The hon. minister cannot rise unless he has the unanimous consent of the House. Does the minister have the unanimous consent of the House to speak at this time?

**An hon. Member:** Agreed.

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the unanimous consent of the House. It indicates the degree of interest there is in hearing me speak. It seems to me, however, that since I did not speak at the opening of the debate I would certainly have the right of reply. I just say this in the event that inadvertently a precedent might be set.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard):** Order. I shall read from page 139 of Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 166(4):

If a member who moves an order of the day should rise and say only a word or two,—for instance, "that he moves the order,"—he is precluded from again addressing the House;

**Mr. Gray:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the greatest respect and praise for the manner in which you have conducted yourself in the position of Acting Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole over the years. I just wanted to indicate that, so far as I was aware, I had not said anything in moving third reading. Perhaps I moved in your direction, but I do not recall making any remarks. All this is not, however, directly relevant to my rising to speak in response to some of the very interesting comments which have been made. I shall be very brief. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) appeared to suggest that provision for

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

the setting of scholastic standards to determine eligibility for loans by the Federal government had been taken out of the Act and that they were being given to the provinces by the amendments. I may not have heard him correctly, but if this is what he said then I would submit there is some misconception here because the setting of scholastic standards for these loans through action of the federal government was never in the Act.

The hon. member might have been referring to an amendment which takes out of one clause some references to certificates of eligibility and puts them in another clause. I should place on the record the fact that, in effect, a bank is in a position to make a loan under the Canada Student Loans Act which would qualify for the government guarantee if a student presents to the bank a certificate issued by the appropriate authority for a province. The act says that the appropriate authority of the province may issue or cause to be issued a certificate to a qualifying student for an academic year whom that authority considers—and the section as amended here states:

- (a) to have attained a satisfactory scholastic standard, and
  - (b) to be in need of a student loan
  - (i) for the academic year in such amount, not exceeding one thousand dollars, or
  - (ii) for the semester in such amount, not exceeding five hundred dollars,
- as the case may be, as is stated in the certificate in order to pursue a course of studies at a post-secondary school level as a full-time student at the educational institution specified therein.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Therefore, I submit that the decision as to eligibility continues, as it was before these amendments, to be one basically made by the provincial authority and is a matter of provincial responsibility.

Hon. members have made very interesting suggestions about enabling part time students to be covered under this act. An hon. member made an interesting suggestion about the definition of a post-secondary institution. If I am not mistaken, in addition to a consultation with the provinces, it could well be that it would be necessary to have some form of amendment to the act to achieve this because I note that subsection (k) of section 2 of the act specifies educational institution as an institution of learning, whether within or outside a province, that offers courses at a post-secondary school level and that is designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of that province.