

Oral Questions

Canada's 450,000 part-time students found student aid adequate for their 1987-88 needs.

If millions of dollars were made available to sell Canadians through daily newspapers, a tax that they do not want, why can the government not increase funds for student financial aid?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, we have a Canada student loan program which this year, from what I understand, will have about \$400 million available. Some 42 per cent of all post-secondary students are now taking advantage of the Canada student loan program.

We do make a significant contribution to post-secondary education. From what I am advised close to 58 per cent of the dollar is our share of the contribution.

As far as comments on whether more can be done with the existing program, there is a current examination of the plan. We are trying to see how it can more effectively meet the needs of the part-time students, the disabled and women. Hopefully, we will have the advice of the member and all members of Parliament in seeing that we help those who really need the help.

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PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Youth since the Secretary of State does not answer questions. It is in relation to the government's inaction on the GST.

Under the GST, people who earn more than \$61,100 a year are eligible for a larger sales tax credit than those who make less than \$61,100. That provision deliberately discriminates against students of this country. Why has the Minister of State for Youth remained silent on this issue? When is he going to start standing up for students of this country, the future of this nation?

• (1200)

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, all Canadian university and college stu-

dents are exempt from the payment of the GST on tuition and tutoring fees.

In addition, universities, colleges and public libraries will receive substantial subsidies on their purchases to ensure that their tax burdens do not increase.

Of course, to the extent that students make purchases as consumers, they will pay the tax on the same basis as other Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: A single question, the hon. member for York Centre.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In light of evidence being obtained on a number of fronts, including the developments at the engineering professional hearing that is referred to in the media this morning, an atmosphere of doom is developing over the RCMP which recalls the momentous resignation of Commissioner Nicholson of the RCMP who refused to obey the political direction being given by Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

In light of these developments, I ask the Minister of Justice for his assurance that any members of the RCMP who come forward with evidence against their superiors, or against officials in other departments, will be protected in their careers by the Minister of Justice. I want to ask him to take steps and what steps he will take to assure those members of the RCMP who are coming forward to tell the truth will not be harassed.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I think that question is much below the dignity of the member who levied it. I think that we all have high respect for the RCMP for truth, and for justice. We are trying in this place to maintain that. That is why we have fought to make sure that nothing that is said in this place in any way endangers a fair trial for anybody.

I think it is about time that my friend concentrated on fair trials rather than muck-raking.