

Private Members' Business

studying the same type of course. Unfortunately, over the years a lot of complication has been created as a result of students moving from one university to the next, putting a tremendous load on their back which they have to deal with.

The suggestion by my colleague to create some sort of a mechanism whereby we cannot simplify the process is only fair.

• (1350)

The former provincial government, a Liberal government, released a report last year called *The People and Skills in the New Global Economy*. I suggest that many sound recommendations came out of the report, one of which calls for uniformity in our post-secondary education.

I would like to quote from that report. The report concluded that:

—it is time to rethink the rigidities still built into the post-secondary education system. Each step along the educational path should open doors rather than close them. Thus, individuals should be able to transfer smoothly from one institution to another without having to go back to 'square one'. Ideally, the competencies an individual has achieved in one environment should be recognized in others if learning is to be acknowledged as cumulative. And finally, no educational choice should be a dead end.

This is an excellent point that has been raised by the provincial government in Ontario. I might suggest it is high time for other provinces to take the lead and to move forward in this direction.

We need a catalyst, and that catalyst has to be the federal government. We can no longer point our finger stating that it is a provincial responsibility and that as a result of that, we are not going to deal with it, while we are giving, in terms of transfer payments to the provinces, billions of dollars on an annual basis.

If this is the same argument we are going to be using, we should look at the health care system. While the health care system falls within the jurisdiction of the provincial government, we still have a federal government involvement in the health care system, and we still, from time to time, tell the provinces how we would like to see the health care system run.

To say that it is within the constitutional right of the provinces, I do not think I will buy that. I do not think the

people of Canada will buy that because while we are contributing financially to the educational system, we should have a say on how the money is spent, especially when it comes to the issue of educating our children, our youth, the leaders of tomorrow.

I commend the hon. member on his excellent initiative. He spoke about people with university degrees who are coming from outside Canada. I have many constituents who have called me on several occasions to tell me horror stories.

A dentist in the Ottawa-Carleton region who obtained his university degree in England called me. He practised for over 25 years as a dentist. This dentist right now is working as a real estate agent because he could not get the equivalent to his university degree which he obtained in England.

Other students who completed PhDs in electrical engineering or civil engineering are driving cabs. When it comes to students who graduate from other universities around the world and who move to Canada, certainly we are not doing enough to recognize their university education.

The system is not perfect. I hope the government is taking note of this and that it will take the recommendation of my Liberal colleague to heart. Hopefully, it will deal with it.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Saint-Maurice.

Mr. Denis Pronovost (Saint-Maurice): First, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague from St. Boniface for bringing this important issue before the House. However let me make it clear that the Canadian government is also showing great concern over post-secondary education because we know that the people of this country can only stand to gain if they are prepared to face up to the challenges of the coming century.

The Canadian government gives priority to education and does not spare any effort to improve conditions in that field. It earmarks a fair share of its annual budget to that end, in keeping with its powers under the Canadian Constitution, yet it shows great respect for provincial and territorial educational jurisdictions and is intent on refraining from expanding or going beyond its jurisdic-