

Senator Molgat: You also undertook to supply the ones that had already been made public. I do not have those.

Senator Murray: Then I will do that.

[Translation]

THE SENATE

APPOINTMENT OF SENATORS

Hon. L. Norbert Thériault: Honourable senators, if the Leader of the Government in the Senate could regain the good humour he was in before Question Period, I would have a question for him!

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: As soon as he is in a good mood again, we will put him back in a bad mood, do not forget!

Senator Thériault: Honourable senators, it is not as serious as that but something intrigues me.

I read in Montreal's *La Presse* this morning and in the *Globe and Mail* that former hockey star Jean Béliveau was offered a position in the Senate on two different occasions by the Prime Minister. Good for him!

What intrigues me is that I read that Mr. Béliveau was offered the choice of sitting as an independent if he wanted to come to the Senate. My question is as follows: Does the Leader of the Government in the Senate know whether the same offer was made to other Quebecers sitting here who used to belong to another political party?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am not able to confirm the report to which the honourable senator refers or to answer the other part of the question.

Senator Thériault: Then the Prime Minister did not seek your advice!

[English]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION (FISCAL MEASURES) BILL, 1992

THIRD READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Lynch-Staunton, seconded by the Honourable

Senator Bolduc, for the third reading of Bill C-76, An Act to amend certain statutes to implement certain fiscal provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on February 25, 1992,

And on the motion in amendment of the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Robichaud, P.C., that Bill C-76 be amended by deleting Clauses 2 and 3 at pages 1 and 2, Clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 at pages 2 and 3, Clause 8 at pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 and Clauses 9 and 10 at pages 7 and 8.

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, I fear that the consequences of passing Bill C-76 are serious and therefore I ask all members of the Senate to vote against it. I wish to limit my comments to the effects this bill would have on the Canada Student Loans Program.

The government continues to cut federal support for post-secondary education. I believe that these cuts and the government's failure to provide the necessary leadership on issues of human resource development have resulted in a deepening crisis in Canada's educational system and in the economy as a whole.

Financial assistance for students is made up of a combination of a Canada student loan and a provincial or territorial loan, grant or bursary, and scholarships. Eligibility for loans, grants and bursaries is need-based and all loans must be repaid with interest over nine and a half years. Scholarships are awarded solely based on merit. This decentralization has resulted in 12 very different aid packages being offered to students, thus creating inequalities from region to region.

I draw your attention to the report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance entitled "Federal Policy on Post-Secondary Education" released in March 1987. With regard to the issue of student aid, it says on page 73:

It would appear from the testimony we heard that the only issue in this area upon which there was agreement was that any changes in fees would have implications for student aid. This is an area which needs a full review. Students receiving both federal and provincial student assistance are not being treated equally; the grant portion in some provinces is considerably more generous than in others. This has an impact on student mobility. The Committee believes that in view of the substantial federal involvement under the Canada Student Loans Program, there is an urgent need for a parliamentary review of student assistance in Canada, and that such a study should examine the question of the proper roles of the two levels of government in this area.