

*Government Orders***STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT**

**Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (for the Minister of Human Resources Development)** moved that Bill C-28, an act respecting the making of loans and the provision of other forms of financial assistance to students, to amend and provide for the repeal of the Canada Student Loans Act, and to amend one other act in consequence thereof, be read the third time and passed.

She said: Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to speak to this piece of very necessary legislation. Canada as it is known is a very vast country encompassing both geographic and demographic diversity.

Coming from the Northwest Territories such as I do I appreciate the size and beauty of this land and also the complexity of governing such a huge geographically challenged country. I also know that each generation of Canadians has had to learn to adapt to the country's reality to make a living to survive.

• (2135)

In today's world Canadians must learn new skills and gain new knowledge to compete in the international marketplace. This bill is intended to help needy Canadians from all parts of the country to obtain the college training and university education required to succeed.

Part of my mandate as Secretary of State for Training and Youth has been to listen to young people and to respond to their concerns. That is why I have taken time in numerous consultations with young men and women across the country to hear what they have to say and to exchange ideas about their plans and hopes for the future.

One such recent opportunity was the wide ranging consultations undertaken by Human Resource Development Canada on the creation and design of the Youth Service Canada. As we continue to undertake other such projects we will continue to consult such as we do.

It is truly exciting to hear what is on the minds and in the hearts of young Canadians and our government remains committed to continuing this dialogue. Young people need to be given an opportunity to make a contribution to the social and economic fabric of this nation.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to begin this third reading debate on the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act, Bill C-28. This legislation represents a tangible result of our government's commitment to support Canadians as they pursue education and training opportunities.

right on, that is exactly what we were talking about", which is basically the Reform position.

I then showed them the questions and comments by the Bloc and by the Liberal member. They were wondering what planet these people were on. The thing that came to me in listening to the debate of six weeks ago is the fact that the only place where there is any concern, the only place where the people are speaking up in Canada is in the Reform constituencies.

• (2130)

We have 52 constituencies where this is a problem. We have 52 constituencies in Canada where this is a problem where people want the issue dealt with in a straightforward firm manner or we have 52 constituencies where we have members of Parliament who are listening to their constituents.

The comparison of the position that the Liberal members were taking that day prior to their convention and the position that the Liberal members came back into this House with as a direct result of listening to their Liberal Party members at large was very similar. It was significantly changed from the position they were all expounding at the time when we had the original debate.

I do not really understand why except finally perhaps because the people that were talking happened to have Liberal Party membership cards they were forced to listen. They listened and they came back with an altered position.

I think it is absolutely amazing. I commend the Liberal government as far as it has gone with this act but the question that I have is why did it not listen to all of the input that it received from its own membership?

**Mr. Milliken:** We did.

**Mr. Abbott:** I see. The member opposite says that they did listen. I am sorry. I did not take the time to go to the Liberal convention. I can only go on what I saw on television and listened to on the radio and read in the paper. It seems to me that the difference is that the Liberal members of Parliament learned something from the Liberal Party people. That is terrific.

I just wish that they would bring it forward in legislation that would be more meaningful and deal with this issue in a more forthright manner.

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I think you will find that there is unanimous consent for the following motion:

That when the question has been deemed to be put to the House on the amendment that a division has been deemed to be demanded and that the division be deferred until Monday, June 20 at 6.30 p.m.

(Motion agreed to.)