

Government Orders

I would say to the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley that while I am not disposed to move this afternoon on it, I will be watching the matter very closely. It may well be that hon. members will want to seek the Chair's advice and guidance tomorrow or the next day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-60, an act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Burin—St. George's had five minutes remaining in his debate, and because of his indulgence I will give him another 30 seconds.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, my good friend who has made a welcome appearance in the House from the good riding of Delta says that I forgot where I was.

I was explaining to his colleagues that in the latest budget, the whole question of Canada student loans was a bit candy coated. Underneath the candy, there were a couple of very stark realities. He will know them.

As a matter of fact, if he wants a little of my time, he might want to tell the House whether he explained those couple of wrinkles to his constituents in Delta.

First, until now the students at Canadian universities who had loans, once they came they had six months before the interest began to accumulate. With this budget, it accumulates the day they stop studying. Therefore, they pay another six months of interest. Did he explain that to his constituents?

Second, did he explain to them that the government wants to privatize student loans? Did he explain the reason? Did he explain that the reason the government

wants to private student loans is that it wants the banks to do its dirty work for it? It wants the private banks to hustle those students who, through no fault of their own, do not have jobs or income.

That is what it is all about. That is what is underneath the candy in that particular budget when it comes to student loans. This government's record in so far as post-secondary education and health care are concerned is absolutely abysmal. It is absolutely shocking. How it can now even have the face to bring another piece of legislation before this House, one wonders.

As the fishermen off the east coast of Canada are finding out, you cannot rely on this government in the crunch. You just cannot rely on this government. As the stores near the border are finding out, you cannot rely on this government in the crunch. The farmers are finding that you cannot rely on this government in the crunch. You just cannot rely on it.

A lot of people took the government's word on the free trade issue, and we see the sad results of that these days. We took their word on so many things. I heard the Prime Minister today and I would dearly like to take his word when he talks about foreign overfishing.

Mr. Worthy: We can't believe your word when you talk. That's extreme talk.

Mr. Simmons: The member from Chilcotin today talks about a Damascus road experience, talks about somebody seeing the light, in the last hour or two hours ago was up on his feet actually blasting who? The Americans.

I remember a time not so long ago when he was chairing a meeting of Canadian-American parliamentarians. He almost suppressed the subject that he addressed today. He would hardly let it be discussed, it was so foolish a subject. He did not see the need for it. He sees the need today. He had to get up and make a speech today to help save his hide back home, on the very issue that he tried to shove under the table not so very long ago.

Mr. Worthy: You're despicable in your politics.

Mr. Simmons: The member knows the meeting I am talking about. Now he says I am despicable.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The hon. member has the floor. I cannot really hear him because there is too much action going across the floor. I would like to hear the hon. member's speech. The hon. member for Burin—St. George's has the floor.