

• (1410)

In this seemingly new system it appears that a government of the day and its elected members have less of a role to play in determining government spending and policies.

What are the attributes of this new system? First, we have an opposition which forgets that it lost the last election. Next, there is a minority of appointed Liberal senators who want to set the agenda arbitrarily, who can pick and choose what bill should become law. Why not? They are accountable to no one.

Finally yesterday we have the Leader of the Opposition, who has not even been elected to the House of Commons, dictating when and if votes should be held in the other place.

Canadians are fed up with new system based on partisanship and opportunism. The time has come for responsible government to be restored.

Elections mean that governments have a right to govern. They do not mean a group of unelected individuals can set its own political and legislative agenda. The time has come to get on with it. Canadians deserve it.

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NATIONAL STUDENT DAY

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, today hundreds of thousands of Canadian students, many of whom are in the gallery, will be celebrating National Student Day. For many there is little reason to celebrate.

It is known that 30 per cent of Canada's students drop out of high school before graduation. The native communities have much higher percentages which go up to 90 per cent. Underfunding has reached crisis proportions in many post-secondary institutions.

For example, there will be 10 million fewer dollars transferred to provinces for education in less than a decade. Plant and equipment are deteriorating rapidly. There have been cuts in science and technology, and there have been reductions in the funds for research and development.

Student and tuition fees are going out of sight. In fact there has been a 3 per cent administrative fee put on the poor, those who need to borrow money to go to school.

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The Canadian Federation of Students today released a report entitled *Strategy for Change*. In its report it has identified the major problems: no vision, no plan, no strategy, no focus; the same problems as in the government's agenda for economic, social and environmental development. It is the same problem.

[Translation]

Education is an investment in the future of our country. Where is this government's political leadership?

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[English]

THE SENATE

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, never before in the history of Canada has the appointed Senate overstepped the bounds of tradition to defeat bills of such importance to the economic future of our country. Its actions should outrage everyone who believes in democracy and representative government.

Since 1984 this government has been committed to reducing the deficit and improving Canada's economic opportunities at home and abroad. In 1988 we reiterated that commitment.

Our efforts are not having the desired effect because the Liberal dominated Senate is stalling the good work of this House by not passing our bills.

The unaccountable Trudeau Liberal senators seem to be afraid to pass the legislation of this House because they know that the effects of our legislation would prove to be so positive that they would work against the Liberals in the next federal election.

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CO-OPERATIVES WEEK

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, this week is Co-Operatives Week in Canada, when we recognize the achievements of our 100 per cent Canadian owned democratic economic sector.

The history of co-ops proves that when we work together we as Canadians can achieve anything we want to. Why then has the government not put as much effort into supporting and promoting co-operatives in Canada as it has into helping big business?