

S. O. 31

"In his four years as Minister of State For Youth, he had a chance to examine one of today's pressing problems, the school drop-out rate, and he talks about it today in very concrete terms. Young people do not necessarily drop out of school because of the school system. They drop out for all kinds of reasons. They may be attracted by the large number of jobs available in Southern Ontario as a result of an overheated economy, or, as is the case in Eastern Canada, they don't see the point of staying in school because there are no jobs or because their parents don't encourage them to go to school".

"At a time when everyone wants to be consulted, when many people realize that the national debt is problem number one in this country and when spending cuts raise howls of protest from interest groups, Mr. Charest's proposal that the next federal government be given a clear mandate to fight the deficit may be very attractive to voters."

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[English]

UNIVERSITY SPORTS

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, while we may differ in our political views those of us in this House who are graduates of St. Francis Xavier University share a great pride in our Alma Mater.

We were all thrilled by the exciting performance of the St. F. X. University varsity basketball team yesterday, under the leadership of coach Steve Konchalski, in winning the CIAU championship in basketball with an exciting 72-64 victory over McMaster University in Halifax.

For Nova Scotians yesterday was a double triumph with Acadia University winning the CIAU championship in hockey in Toronto.

The St. F. X. X-men thrilled their fans, as they have all year, with superlative basketball, with Richard Bella, Brian Lee and Blair White in particular turning in outstanding performances yesterday.

Winning the CIAU championship, the first ever for St. F. X., was a particularly fitting tribute to Father George Kehoe, St. F. X.'s much loved former athletic director

who died tragically last year and to whom Coach Konchalski dedicated the team's win.

I know all members of this House, including my colleagues from Hamilton, will join me in congratulating the St. F. X. basketball team on its thrilling performance yesterday.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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WORLD HEALTH DAY

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, on April 7 we celebrate World Health Day to honour the adoption of the World Health Organization's constitution of 1948.

This year's slogan is "Handle Life with Care—prevent violence and negligence". Three and one-half million people die every year as a result of injury caused by violence, accidental or intentional. Injuries cost Canadians over \$11 billion each year, and although this rate is falling injuries are the leading cause of death and the second leading cause of hospitalization of our youth.

Health and Welfare Canada is starting a program to target injury prevention and its evaluation. Safety is everyone's responsibility and must be included in all our policies.

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CANADA STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, I received numerous copies of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister from the students of the University of Saskatchewan concerning the proposed changes to the Canada Student Loans Program.

I would like to read part of the letter:

Today, a post-secondary education costs a great deal of money. Not all students have the ability to pay these costs. The Canada Student Loans Program, therefore, has allowed hundreds of thousands of Canadians to further their education regardless of their income status.

Your government has publicly recognized the importance of creating an educated work force. Yet the legislation put forward in Bill C-76 will discourage, rather than encourage students from continuing.

The letter goes on to ask whether the government is so obsessed with deficit reduction that creating an educated and skilled, and therefore competitive, work force is no longer one of its priorities.