

Oral Questions

development of MIL Davie, as it committed to do in the last election campaign.

• (1415)

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[English]

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government is spending your money just like the Conservatives did. For example, let us take the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency grant for \$22,300 to study blueberry jelly.

In a simple inexpensive effort to look at this grant I contacted an expert inventor in the field of jelly making, my mom. At no cost to the taxpayer my mom says: "Wash those blueberries thoroughly, son. Add water and cook slowly until tender. Drain through a cheesecloth. Boil rapidly for five minutes. Measure juice and add an equal amount of sugar. Boil rapidly until mixture gels".

Somehow allowing the Liberals to spend \$22,300 on nonsense like this has to stop. Where is the idea going to gel in the mind of the government that throwing away money like this is a recipe for disaster?

Our debt is growing faster than blueberries on a bush at \$538,307,766,417.60.

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POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP): Mr. Speaker, in its green book on social security reform the Liberal government told us we needed to give more Canadians access to higher education. In the same breath it proposed that the current generation of students would have to pay much higher tuition fees than their parents did.

This is like Walmart trying to win new customers by raising its prices. What the Liberals are really saying is that they want to turn Canadian universities and colleges into Holt Renfrews with most students reduced to fantasizing about what it would be like to actually be able to afford to go to such an elite institution.

The Liberals now like to parrot the Reform Party's slogan that we must cut the deficit so that we do not mortgage our children's future. However to ask today's students to pay dramatically higher tuition fees and at the same time as future taxpayers to pay off the debt accumulated by previous generations would have exactly the opposite effect.

The students who have to borrow to pay for the increased tuition fees will emerge with their own personal education mortgage before they even look at a house. They will still be paying off the mortgage of previous generations, the public debt.

EDUCATION

Mr. Harold Culbert (Carleton—Charlotte, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this evening, November 15, 1994, a banquet will be held at the New Brunswick Community College at Woodstock campus with guest speaker Mike Duffy to honour the facility's 10th anniversary. Not only is it the 10th anniversary of this new facility, but it is also the 75th anniversary of vocational training and education in the region, which began at the Carleton County Vocational School some 75 years ago.

This type of community based education and training has been successful over the past 75 years and never was it more important than it is today. With the competition around the world it is imperative that community colleges continue to be a significant part of our education system.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the anniversary committee, the administration staff, students, all those who made this facility possible, as well as those who have continued its success over the years.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

COLLÈGE MILITAIRE ROYAL DE SAINT-JEAN

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ): Mr. Speaker, after rejecting Quebec's proposal to maintain the military role of the Collège de Saint-Jean, the federal government has now been approached by the new mayor of Saint-Jean who suggested a moratorium of three years on the decision to close the college.

My question is directed to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Since a moratorium would have the advantage of allowing discussions among the parties to continue, does the minister not think he should agree to the request made by the mayor of Saint-Jean?

Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there are two things we should remember. First, keeping the Collège de Saint-Jean open unnecessarily will cost taxpayers \$23 million annually. This means that three years will cost taxpayers nearly \$70 million.

Mr. Plamondon: That is not true!

Mr. Massé: Second, we now have an agreement with the Government of Quebec to keep the Collège de Saint-Jean open as a civilian institution. That is the agreement we have now and the agreement we want to implement.