COMMONS DEBATES

S. O. 31

[English]

This government must begin to view post-secondary education as a long-term investment. I urge the government to undertake a comprehensive review of the Canada Student Loans Program with the aim of increasing the flexibility and accessibility of the program while permitting students to secure employment prior to establishing repayment plans.

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ELIJAH HARPER

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, a socialist is a Liberal is a New Democrat is a socialist. Elijah Harper is now a candidate for the Liberal Party in Manitoba in the next election.

He is a former member of the New Democratic Party, a former NDP member of the legislature, and a former cabinet minister in the NDP Government of Manitoba. When he announced his candidacy for the Liberal Party he said that he would not have to compromise his principles from being a New Democrat to now being a Liberal.

That comes as no surprise to me. I have watched the opposition in this House for four years. There is no difference between a Liberal and a New Democrat. Socialism is alive and well in both parties.

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CANADIAN AUTO WORKERS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I announce that Canadian Auto Workers local 1990 has voted to affiliate with the New Democratic Party.

The local, representing 2,600 workers at Canadian Airlines and its partners, voted on the resolution at its annual convention in Port Elgin, Ontario. CAW President Buzz Hargrove said: "Workers of Canadian Airlines know which party has fought against privatization and deregulation. They know that the NDP is the only political party that stands up for working people and the Canadian airline industry. This is a grass roots decision. It was made after spirited debate by delegates from across the country and is the first time these people have decided to throw their full support behind the NDP".

THE REFORM PARTY

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, the Reform Party is cutting up again.

In the March 22 issue of *The Globe and Mail* it was reported that: "After asking its members to fill in questionnaires to help guide its policy, the Reform Party looked at only a small fraction of the forms and secretly shredded tens of thousands without reading them".

The Reform Party is not a grass roots party. It is a crab-grass roots party. How mean it is to ask people for their ideas and then to turn those ideas into mice nests. The report also indicated that other questionnaires are being read by laser reading machines. In my political party we have a program called Talk to a Tory; the Reform Party could have one called Liaison with a Laser.

The Reform Party is a bumper sticker party that tries to resolve major issues with slogans like the "The west wants in". Its next slogan should be "Read my laser".

Preston Manning, like the character in the Ninja Turtles, may now be called Shredder.

PAKISTAN

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, while the minister of minority rights of Pakistan is in Canada Canadians want to urge him to ensure that the human rights of Christian minorities in his country are respected.

Pakistan is an essentially Islamic state. Christian minorities number fewer than 1 per cent. There have been reports of growing anti-Christian violence and steps by the government to undermine their rights.

For example, Pakistan's blasphemy law states that anyone who does not accept Muhammad is a traitor to Pakistan. We are pleased however that the government has resisted taking other proposed repressive measures on several occasions.

Pakistan's Christians have been proud citizens since the founding of the country in 1947, and most resided in the area before the country was born.

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