

*Canada Student Loans Act*

and moving toward establishing a uniform system of education throughout all of Canada, to the end that a family moving from province to province would suffer no educational setback; or (b) if we do not want to make it a branch, a division or agency—whatever you want to call it—under the Secretary of State, it would seem to me that this is a sufficiently important area of concern that we ought to assign this responsibility to a minister without portfolio in the federal cabinet. In that way some order might begin to be achieved in what must be, for many mobile families in this country of ours, educational chaos. With that suggestion, Mr. Speaker, I would close my remarks and say that Bill C-135 is certainly deserving of the support of all parties in the House.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I begin by extending my congratulations to the minister not only for his elevation but for the presentation which he made of this important bill. It was brisk, it was competent and I think very elucidating, and I hope he will, so long as he is there, do this again. I would like to associate myself most strongly with the spokesman for our party, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. MacRae), who with his usual thoughtful wisdom seized the import of the bill and spoke with great lucidity. As an outstanding educator and a very successful businessman he said those things with which all of us are in agreement, and I will not go over that ground again. I agree with him, and I agree with my colleague from Waterloo (Mr. Hales) that it is important that everything be done to vitiate the potential discrimination in the measure and also to plug any loopholes that can be found.

I suppose our society has always thrown up the lead-swinger. Always there are these people, but it is up to the state to make sure its largesse is extended to them as seldom as possible. I suppose the youth of Canada must be somewhat disappointed with the hon. gentlemen across the way from us. I agree with the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) that it was a great disappointment and indeed a most misleading promise to suggest to the young people of Canada that by voting in a certain way, and if that were the course of enough people to put a certain group in power, that 10,000 scholarships would be made available. These scholarships have never been disbursed and I now never hear them mentioned. Apparently they are as remote as the Canada Development Corporation.

[Mr. McBride.]

I suppose, too, the young people of Canada will see eventually that the Company of Young Canadians will be no more. And if I read aright the remarks of the Hon. Judy La Marsh, who must know a great deal about these things, it will not be primarily the fault of the young men about the country but of those who once having erected the edifice no longer offered any interest, direction or concern for this group, which could have been a most valuable organization. I suppose there was even another disappointment when the people of Canada discovered that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was not quite as young as he seemed to allege. In fact, when the true statistic emerged he was as old as I am, and with no flight of fancy would I ever pretend I was or could be a swinger.

The student loans measure is an important one, and heaven knows the student loans have been a real help. This has been valuable legislation. I am in accord with all those who have spoken in favour of this sort of thing. It underlines a federal concern in an area of provincial jurisdiction; there is no question about that. But how could the national government be unconcerned about the development of the nation's human resources? Such a course of action, such an abdication of concern would be totally irresponsible and indeed thoroughly impossible today. I think that despite those forces against it there will in fact be greater and greater involvement on the part of the dominion government in this broad question of educating the youth of our land, indeed educating all the people of our country. I am convinced that one area in which the federal government must become increasingly alert is in regard to the Americanization of our universities. In this connection I believe Professor Steele and those who think like him are on the right track.

I mention this not on the basis of anti-Americanism because that has never been a credo of mine. If I could not be a Canadian I would like to be an American; that is how I view Americans. My concern stems not from any latent anti-Americanism but from anxiety as to what is happening to the Canadian products of Canadian universities.

● (4:30 p.m.)

I hope that my learned friend from Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) will not be upset if I seem to use "commodity" language. I am interested, as are some of my colleagues, in the question of intent as to residence in this country. What has been our experience with the declaration as it exists at present?