

Government Orders

The government should find ways to allow students to pay them back in an honourable way with a job, with something that says not only are they able to pay back their loans but they can do it honourably and get on with their lives. They should do that rather than pursuing the kinds of economic policies that make it extremely difficult for students when they complete their degrees to get a job that allows them to honourably pay back the kind of loan they have had to take. It is so difficult to get an education and it is so difficult to get the right kind of education that will lead to the kind of job that is permanent and allows them to get ahead.

In the years that I have been here this government has always shown a total lack of understanding in whatever area it goes. Previously there was a reference to the way that we sometimes vote in this House of Commons. There are many instances in which things are grouped together so that there are good points and bad points.

Then we play our little game. It says that we the opposition always oppose because it always manages to put in things that we might want to support along with things we definitely do not want to support. We cannot win either way. If we vote against it the government brings out the part that we should have supported and we would have supported had it been on its own. If we vote for it the government says that we support all of its policies. How great.

If we were above board and honest with the people of Canada then perhaps we could say yes we support this and no we do not support this. What has shocked me the most about being a member of Parliament is the games that people play with the lives of Canadians.

An hon. member: The government plays games.

Mrs. Marleau: The government plays games. I would hope that when the time comes and we have a chance to right the wrongs of this government we will not fall prey to the game playing that has been going on. It is high time that we start considering who is paying the price for these games. Canadians are paying the price.

There are some members who will pay the price as well come next election.

An hon. member: Most of them.

Mrs. Marleau: Many of them will. Then perhaps they will understand what we are talking about when we say they have been going to the wrong people when they try to hit and convince Canadians that it is those who are most vulnerable who are the ones causing the problems and they are not.

I know very few students who once they complete their education and have a decent job are not willing, even eager, to pay off their loans. However we must give them a way of doing it.

The government says it is bringing forward this bill because we are going to remove the 3 per cent surcharge some time in the future. There is absolutely nothing in this bill that will remove that surcharge now. It is a vague promise.

It is not fair to tell people that we are giving with one hand and we are taking with the other because all we are doing is taking away right now. In past speeches I have spoken to the kind of harassment that students are subjected to when it comes to their Canada student loans.

I will not go into detail about some of the things that have happened except to say that no one should be subjected to this type of harassment.

I would hope that the government would accept some of these amendments that we are now making which would make it easier on everyone. Perhaps in the eyes of Canadians it would make the members of the government seem more human. Not only must they seem more human but they must become more human.

They must remember what it is like to be out there either looking for a job or trying to pay back their loans. They must remember that because very soon they are going to be in that position. Then they will want people to feel warm and giving towards them. I beseech the government to allow some of these amendments.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, this debate at report stage must be extraordinarily interesting to the electorate watching it on television. The hon. member from Carleton—Charlotte accused another hon. member of being totally ignorant of the bill and said therefore how dare she stand before this House and even debate it. Meanwhile he chose to debate two items which were not covered in the bill.