

EDUCATION

IMPENDING CLOSURE OF DAVID THOMPSON UNIVERSITY
CENTRE, NELSON, B.C.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, Conservative provincial Governments across Canada are playing fast and loose with federal education funds by continuing to divert vast sums of federal dollars away from post-secondary education while Ottawa stands idly by. This pattern of escalating abuse has reached its zenith in British Columbia as huge student fee increases, staff and program cutbacks, and even the outright closure of entire institutions, have become the order of the day, while our taxpayers' dollars are squandered on high profile, prestige projects and uneconomic resource give aways.

In my own riding of Kootenay West, in fact in my home town, the David Thompson University Centre, the only non-metropolitan campus in B.C., is being shut down on May 1, throwing 100 faculty and staff onto the jobless rolls, and denying some 500 students of their right to reasonable equality of access to education. But the tragedy is not simply local. Many David Thompson University Centre programs, in fine arts, in the school of writing, and in rural education, are unique and are simply not available elsewhere in our province. As a result, many students come from other areas, and over 60 per cent of our students are women.

I plead with the Government to respond soon to the earlier appeals of my colleague, the Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), and myself, and urgently consider what action it might take by way of applying special emergency funds or by means of special sanctions to save jobs and programs now in B.C., and to ensure the rights and future careers of our young people in Nelson, throughout B.C., and across Canada.

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THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Jack Masters (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of people in my riding of Finnish descent, and on behalf of the thousands of Finnish people who live in Canada, I wish to comment on the insensitive statement of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) concerning "Finlandization". Many people of Finnish ancestry have correctly pointed out that, while Finland lives in the shadow of the Russian bear, unlike other countries in this situation "Finlandization" means a policy which is one of independence, not domination. This is very difficult to achieve, as we can appreciate. Therefore, I felt it necessary to explain. The mistaken impression which was given by the Leader of the Opposition is an injustice to Finns everywhere.

S.O. 21

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LEBANON—EFFECT OF CONFLICT

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, the continued fighting and bloodshed in Lebanon have saddened the hearts of those who are seeking a solution to this conflict and of all those who want peace in this world. Canadians have great sympathy for the Lebanese man on the street, who only wants to live in peace and go about his daily business in a normal way. We all realize that the situation is hardest on Lebanese citizens, who have nothing to gain from this conflict.

At home, Canadians of Lebanese origin are well known for their enterprising attitude without racial or ideological prejudice. They have a reputation for working hard to achieve their own and their family's goals. Every night, pictures on TV remind us of the tragedy that is taking place in the streets of Beirut and of the pressing need for all citizens of this world to find ways of ensuring that we can all live together in peace.

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[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM—POSITION OF PROGRESSIVE
CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Hon. Roger Simmons (Burin-St. George's): Mr. Speaker, last November the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) told a meeting of Alberta Tories that he and his Party favoured scrapping the National Energy Program's so-called 25 per cent "back-in" provision. Just as he made this statement, the Tory Premier of Nova Scotia, John Buchanan, began frantically lobbying Liberals in Ottawa to enshrine that provision in legislation in order to protect it from being changed by a future Government.

A few days ago, in talking to the Nova Scotia Tory Party, the Leader of the Official Opposition appeared to repudiate his November 8 pledge in Calgary and assured the Premier he would not change the program to the detriment of the province. Even as he was making that statement, the Hon. Member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) was telling *Maclean's* magazine that a Tory Government would do away with the 25 per cent back-in provision.

● (1410)

When are the Tories going to get their energy act together, Mr. Speaker? When are they going to stop speaking out of both sides of their mouth on this issue, saying one thing in one part of the country and something else in another part of the country? When will their Leader and official spokesmen stop trying to hoodwink Canadians by coming down on every side of every issue?