

*Canada Student Loans Act*

● (5:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, a capitalist system must curb abuses, not deprive our young people from getting a university education or going to secondary and post-secondary schools because funds have not been made available. It is most shameful and we are condoning it. We tolerate this in the name of freedom, but what kind of freedom is that. I agree that we need individual freedom, that security is not enough. I know it is easy to obtain security. It is the easiest thing in the world when you forego freedom. If all of us here were to go to Freiman's on Rideau Street and smash a big show-window, within ten minutes we would have perfect security, but behind bars. We would be entitled to three meals a day, clothes and a bedroom. It might not be just like home, but it would be secure. If we needed medical care, we would get it. If we had a toothache, we would go to the dentist—free. That is security, but our freedom would be behind bars.

That is why we want to establish a system of security coupled with freedom, real freedom. We must not tell students they can get their education on credit and if next year they can no longer pay, well, just wait another year. We play with students as if they were pets, and we think we are settling their problems.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we open our eyes. About a year ago, the American economist Robert Theobald suggested that students should get a salary, because, he argued, they do work as any other laborer in any sector of the economy.

What are we of the Ralliement Cr ditiste suggesting? We do not suggest to fetch the moon and bring it to earth. We do not suggest either to launch the students along with the astronauts to the moon next Friday. We are saying that the public sector of our national economy should be financed from interest-free loans issued directly by the Bank of Canada.

We still need scrip money to cope with the new production—and education is a kind of production—when we are building and developing a country. We say to the federal government to order the Bank of Canada to supply the provinces with the money needed for the administration of their education system. That is what we are suggesting. We can do that for several things, but there is nothing that keeps the government or parliament from ordering Mr. Rasminsky, Governor of the Bank of Canada, to grant the necessary

credit to the provinces so that they may take care of their education system.

The federal government should not tell the province of Quebec, the province of Alberta, the province of British Columbia or Newfoundland, how it intends to handle the students. That is the responsibility of the provinces since education comes under their jurisdiction.

The federal government must supply credits through the Bank of Canada so that the provinces may supervise the education system and erect, for instance, universities, post-secondary, secondary and technical schools, if need be. It must help also talented students to pursue their studies.

It is said today that students are faced with financial problems. It is not said that they are having difficulties with their teachers. No! It is not said that they are having difficulties with the university. No! Nor is it said that their text-books are a problem. No! It is said that they do not have the money they need to carry on their studies. So, let us pass legislation giving them the opportunity to go into debt. Such is our present system. But it will not last forever!

According to an old saying: One can fool some of the people all the time; one can fool all of the people some of the time; but one cannot fool all of the people all the time. That is not true, because that is exactly what is happening today!

Mr. Speaker, once more no doubt the cr ditistes will be laughed at but this will bring no change in the situation and will not help the students in any way.

There are complaints that everything is not well in Montreal and that students should be blamed for it! I met students last week in western Canada. I met students at the Alberta University, at Saint-Paul College in Winnipeg, at the Manitoba University. At Saint-Paul College, I met more than 600 students aged from 18 to 22 who listened religiously to what we had to tell them. Their problem is not so much a French or English language problem as an education problem, a finance problem!

Yet the government does not find any way other than introducing legislation that would allow students to get into debt. What a clever solution! How satisfied these young people must be with Ottawa! It is not surprising that the young are rising against the federal and provincial governments! They are given no chance at all. Why? Because there is too much to do at the same time.