Drop-out candidate Biden born wrong side of border

Pity poor Joe Blden. First, the Democratic senator had to drop out of the presidential race after revelations that he plagiarized in law school, has been telling inflated tales about his academic career, and cribbed a campaign speech from British

Labour Party leader Nell Kinnock. And now (trony of tronles) it turns out that his big mistake was being born on the wrong side of the border - had he been born in Canada, he might well be prime minister loday.

This is the gist of a remarkable analysis by the Rev. Colin Campbell, a political science professor at Georgetown University. If Sen. Biden had been running for office in Canada, says the professor, his transgressions would never have been paraded on the front pages, since "Canada is still a society where fair play is

upheld." For instance, the professor adds, it is extremely unlikely that the Canadian press would begin digging up Ed Broadbent's old university transcripts just because his party is riding high in the polis.

This is a fascinating pronouncement. And let's leave

aside the ract that it virtually guarantees that 14 Canadian reporters will immediately begin digging up Ed's old university transcripts, just to prove that they have as little respect for fair play as the next fellow.

(News flash: "University transcripts reveal that Ed Broadbent once received a B-minus on a political science paper on the grounds that it was a bit bland and went to tortuous lengths to avoid using the word 'socialist'." Hmm. No. it lacks that detectable whill of genuine scandal, somehow.)

Il you wanted to be blunt and uncharitable, of course, you could argue that Sen. Biden got exactly the comeuppance he deserved.

Perhaps a man can be excused for having plagiarized back in law chool, but you have to have serious doubts about a politician who cribs a campaign speech from Neil Kinnock.

This was one of the speeches Kinnock delivered en route to being trounced by Maggle Thatcher. Pinching one of Neil Klnnock's impaign speeches seems a bit

well, a bit like pinching one John Turner's. The larceny may deft but the judgement is matable



Weir's View

By lan

in most unforgivable of all are stage. the tales that Sen. Biden told about Lis academic career.

degrees the has one), that he don't actually invent academic attended law school on a full degrees. Still, would we really want scholarship (he didn't), and that he some reporter to double-check graduated in the top half of his everything we've ever said about cases the graduated 76th out of 855

When you see it in black and white like this, the point is witheringly clear. The plain fact is that Sen. Biden. . . well, the fact is that he did more or less what everyone else does.

You and I - it goes without saying - are honest people. But I think it's fair to say that we also have personal experience with the manner in which having played the Seventh Elf in the Grade Six Christmas pageant can become magnified, over the years, into a once-blossoming career on the

Granted, most of us don't exaggerate quite as He claimed that he earned three enthusiastically as Sen. Biden. We

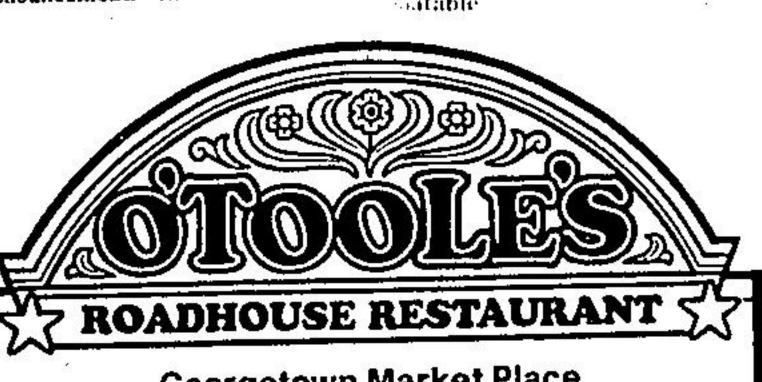
ourselves?

This is the point at which you begin to think terribly fond thoughts about the good old Canadian spirit of fair play.

Just imagine the sort of resumeof-life that the average Canadian might wish to present to the world, with the appropriate translations in brackets.

"Herbert Success spent several happy years at high school (in fact, a year more than everyone else did) and briefly considered a career in investment banking (until 'he failed Math).

"After graduation, he attended university (well, mostly he didn't attend - this is why they asked him to leave), and later took up the offer of a managerial position (well, almost) with a longestablished firm this father has owned the business (or 20 years).



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