

in terms of public funds. We are this year starting with an immediate appropriation of \$4 million on a building program which will extend over a period of three years at a total cost of \$15.5 million. These are instructional buildings and are being fully financed by the province. So that in our position, at least as far as instructional buildings are concerned, we have no problem at the moment. But every time we have approached the Government with a residence in our estimates it has always said, and perhaps properly, What is your priority—instructional buildings or a residence? Well, that is not a fair question at all because if you have no place to instruct students there is no use in having a residence for them, so we have to say, We need instructional buildings, we need the chemical laboratory, we need an addition to the physics lab and so forth, and in this way residences are left out of the estimates every year.

Senator CAMPBELL: As far as the University of Alberta is concerned you still have the door open for some financial assistance from the province for residences provided you can obtain additional money by way of loans?

Dr. STEWART: Yes. Looking at the situation we decided that perhaps the only way to get ahead immediately with residences was to borrow, and we have spent some time working with one of the large construction companies to see if it was possible for it to build us a low cost residence project on a self liquidating basis, and we were making considerable progress until three weeks ago when they came east and on their return told us that the rate of interest to be paid makes the whole thing impossible. On account of that we had to drop it. But, if we could get a bit of money by grant or gift or otherwise and then be in a position to borrow the rest at reasonable rates of interest we could make it work.

Senator MOLSON: Did the study of these plans that were made give you any idea of what perhaps the lowest cost per student might be initially?

Dr. STEWART: I would say that these are absolutely the lowest estimates, and I hate to quote them but they are \$2,000 per student. Actually that is about rock bottom.

Senator CAMPBELL: What type of construction would that be?

Dr. STEWART: That is frame and stucco construction.

Senator CRERAR: Dr. Stewart, one occasionally sees criticism that the universities, generally speaking, are striving for size rather than for quality and that in order to get large numbers of students, and perhaps not for that reason alone but for other reasons, standards have tended downwards. Now quite obviously that would have a bearing on this problem. Mr. Chairman, I would like Dr. Stewart to comment on that. I may mention that on one occasion in Winnipeg in a public address I brashly offered the criticism that I thought there was too much of a tendency in our universities to become glorified technical schools, and that the real purpose of education was being allowed to slip backwards somewhat. I may say, doctor, that I still harbour those views to some degree. I would like your comment.

Dr. STEWART: I think the general view on this is that we have quoted the best estimates we can get of the number of students who will be admitted to universities over the years ahead. These estimates by Sheffield and other people are based on the assumption that admission conditions to universities remain as they are now, that it is not going to be made more difficult or less difficult to enter university. In other words, you are assuming the same conditions of admission but that the numbers of students will increase, and that is something that the universities have no control over at all. Now, maybe Queen's can say, We do not want any more students, but I cannot