

addressed to the Federal Government means that we are prepared to provide financial support to make it effective and that we must, so far as possible, grant to every Canadian the necessary instruments for studying the two official languages. Last November 6, the Honorable Gérard Pelletier announced that execution of the recommendations would involve, on the part of the Federal Government, financial participation amounting to approximately \$50 million for an entire year. This amount may increase within the limits of available resources as the program expands through greater participation by the provinces.

AREAS FOR FEDERAL ACTION

Since this Government policy was announced, several senior officials from Ottawa have been travelling about to meet their counterparts in each of the provinces. The aim of all these consultations is to establish a general description of the criteria for total participation in the program. On the basis of this universally-accepted description, we shall allocate the funds. The Government has recognized four particular areas in which it could give tangible assistance. First, the recommendations concerning *primary and secondary schools*:

These recommendations propose a formula by which expenditures and financial aid for official-language minority schools could be calculated. It seems to us that the first part of these recommendations is of special interest to you as teachers in the French-language secondary schools of Ontario. While, for the reasons mentioned earlier, the Government cannot assume full responsibility in this sector, we believe that a considerable portion of the grants will be reserved for this purpose. Secondly, *teacher-training*:

The Commission dealt at length with teacher-training so designed as to ensure that teachers graduating from normal schools will be able to meet the criteria of speaking and writing the most accurate French. Several inquiries, such as the Comité Franco-Ontarien d'enquête culturelle (Franco-Ontarian Cultural Inquiry Committee), directed by a number of your fellow citizens, have mentioned deficiencies in this field. All provinces training teachers in their province's minority language could participate in this specialization program.

Other recommendations refer to the creation of second-language training-centers and an inter-provincial bureau for these centers. We are prepared to accept the principles underlying these recommendations and to discuss their implementation with the province. In order to give further encouragement to the study of the second language, we shall plan to set up a greater number of establishments than originally suggested by the Commission. We also think that there would be some advantage in providing for the awarding of modest bursaries to teachers attending these and other similar training institutions.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Here again, the Commission recommends that the Government provide financial encouragement in various ways for students who wish to follow courses in their mother tongue in a university outside their province when the latter does not provide the courses concerned. Such encouragement could perhaps take the form of grants to students for their transportation or other expenses. In the same spirit, we are disposed to assist the institutions which must meet the requirements of the official minority by providing them with teaching in their own language.

LANGUAGE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Lastly, the creation by the Federal Government of a Language Research Council is suggested. We are inclined to accept this recommendation and consult the interested parties in connection with the possible repercussions of the establishment of such a council.

As you are probably aware, there is no shortage of projects. Recently, the Honorable Gérard Pelletier stated, with justification, that the Government felt that the Commission's report would be of considerable assistance in the struggle for national unity, and that, while there were limitations of a technical, financial and human nature to what could be achieved in this field, it was nevertheless believed that considerable progress could be made.

So here we have the country's educational system — the very vehicle of participation; this vehicle, however has to have wheels, and its two main wheels will be social development and information. Children leaving school must be encouraged to keep up an interest in the social problems of their environment; their needs must be known to the Government, as must your own. To achieve this, they must be given tools to work with, food for thought in the form of information which they will assimilate in order to get to know one another better and the more easily to express their wishes to their representative in the Government.

The Task Force on Government Information made quite plain the view that the citizen "is at present too poorly informed to participate in government activity".

This problem of information is crucial for national unity. Canadians need more than the snippets of information which are often all that reaches them about Government policies, programs and services. It is often those who need help most who know least about its availability and how to obtain it.

It is our firm intention to combat these deficiencies, partly by creating Information Canada, which should begin operations in a small way by April 1. As well as improving the conveying of essential facts to the people, Information Canada will lend an attentive ear to what the people want the Government to know. To sum up, Information Canada will be an agency with a small but expert staff