

ironic to introduce this Bill at this time when almost daily in Question Period the Government suggests there has been a real recovery or that recovery is on the way. Now we find, however, that a cutback or restraint mentality is being demonstrated in the provisions of the Act.

In Manitoba and elsewhere it has been observed that in this time of recession and unemployment more and more students have been turning to post-secondary institutions in order to further their education and equip themselves to earn their fair share of the economic recovery that is being touted. There has been a dramatic increase in enrolment at the university and college level. I have obtained figures which indicate that between 1980 and 1984, overall university enrolment in Manitoba increased by almost 30 per cent; in 1980-81 there was a university enrolment of 19,254; in 1981-82 an enrolment of 21,214; in 1982-83 it was 23,586 and in 1983-84 it was 25,066.

Manitoba is a small province with a population of over one million people but it has had a dramatic rise in university enrolment. There is the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg and Brandon University. Just yesterday the Hon. Member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Clark) delivered a good speech about Brandon University and told us what great strides it is making. For the edification of the former professor of that university, I want to indicate that perhaps the main reason why the university has been such a great university in Canadian history is that people like Tommy Douglas graduated from it and the House Leader of this Party, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), is its chancellor. It is therefore no surprise to me that such great things are happening at Brandon University.

In my own experience I have followed the BUNTEP and other programs rather closely. These have provided teachers' aids on the reserves and in the northern part of Manitoba. I believe that steps like this have been very helpful and I should like to see more emphasis being put on such programs.

The universities are located in the two most populated centres of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg are both in Winnipeg and, of course, Brandon University is in Brandon. It is true that some 60 per cent of Manitoba's population resides in Winnipeg while Brandon has about 34,000 people and also serves a larger surrounding area. This means that along Highway No. 1 in the southern part of Manitoba, within 100 miles of the United States border, there are these university structures and facilities but rural parts of Manitoba do not have the same privilege. Rather than have cutbacks in the universities at the present time, I should like to see them increase their extension programs. I raise these arguments, Mr. Speaker, in an effort to point out that the timing of this six and five program for post-secondary education is not very helpful.

In addition to the universities there are community colleges and technical colleges. In Manitoba there is the Red River

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Community College, the Assiniboine Community College, one at The Pas, Manitoba, and these provide more technical training. The increase in enrolment in these colleges has also been rather dramatic. I believe there has been a 12 per cent increase in enrolment in some in both day and evening classes. The statistics that I have show that in 1980-81, 32,302 students were enrolled at colleges in Manitoba; in 1981-82, 35,245 students were enrolled and in 1982-83, 36,000 were enrolled. This shows a great increase in this aspect of post-secondary education.

There are also some denominational colleges which provide religious training and equip students for the Christian ministry, colleges such as the Winnipeg Bible College and Theological Seminary, the Canadian Nazarene College; the Mennonite brethren have a bible college in Winnipeg as well as the Canadian Mennonite brethren. These colleges could be affiliated with universities by way of teaching stations or through cross-credit transfer programs. They might even be members of certain associations which are related as degree granting institutions or diploma granting institutions. The colleges have also been experiencing a great increase in enrolment. Winnipeg Bible College often transfers credits to Brandon University in some of its programs. Last year the enrolment was up by 15 per cent.

These institutions represent the tax paying public but quite often they do not receive the recognition they should. In our multicultural and pluralistic society some of the programs they offer should receive some sort of funding to make sure that type of education is available to people who want it.

The Parliamentary Secretary who spoke earlier in the debate referred to the benefits the Canada student loan program had offered. I know, however, that with the increase in costs a large number of students, from rural areas especially, have not been able to avail themselves of some of these very important programs. Timing is a problem, Mr. Speaker, and I will deal with it.

We must put more emphasis on the challenges and opportunities of post-secondary education and realize that in order to develop more money is needed. There has been reference to mature students returning to training institutions in order to further their education. When I taught sociology at the University of Manitoba, at evening classes at Portage la Prairie, for instance, many people who would call themselves housewives—I would say there is no such thing as a housewife, but rather a domestic executive and household engineer—people who have raised a family and who have been working in the home, have often gone back to take one or two courses as a stepping stone to returning to full-time education. Many older people in my constituency have gone back to university to get a degree, something they would have liked to do a long time ago.