

Loans to Students

increased to \$19.6 million and that by 1968-69 it should go up to \$52.9 million. There is no indication that the government is prepared to move on this recommendation.

So far, all we have been offered is this student loans program which is a very small part of what is needed. Dr. Spinks pointed out that while scientific research in the universities has grown it has not kept pace with the need. I should like to quote a couple of paragraphs from his speech. He said:

It is imperative that Canadian scientists be provided with a few major installations. While it is not contemplated that every university should be equipped with very expensive installations in the various disciplines, it is essential that a limited number of such facilities be available in the country to serve university science.

It is of the utmost importance that the recommended minimum support be provided. In the past few years, during which the developments in world science have been spectacular, the first class research ability of Canadian scientists has been seriously handicapped by lack of modern research equipment, and Canadian science has been steadily losing ground. Canada's scientific competence, which is essential to the realization of our national aspirations, is declining seriously through lack of tools.

I could read into the record what experts appointed by responsible agencies of the government itself have recommended. But the minister ought to know these things and we certainly should have had from him by now some idea of what priorities, what plans, the government has in this field. Yet up to now we have been told virtually nothing. In December of 1963 an influential group of medical researchers and doctors made representations to the minister on this subject and I should like to read a couple of paragraphs from the representations they made:

It has been clearly evident during the last decade that the support which is available for medical and biological research in Canada in the universities falls far short of that necessary to maintain the highest standards of scientific accomplishment. Although the medical research council of Canada, and other granting bodies in Canada, have steadily increased their budgets in the last few years, the sums available have not kept pace with the increasing costs of research, and with the requirements of an expanding number of research workers. As a consequence of this situation many of the most gifted young investigators, unable to find the means to carry out their research in Canada, have to find their opportunities for work elsewhere, mainly in the United States. This loss is felt not only in the organization of existing research groups but also in the education of future scientists, who are deprived of the contact with many of the best creative minds of Canada. It can be foreseen that the continuous process of depletion of the nation's talented personnel will have an adverse effect on the quality of research training and of teaching provided in the coming

years when an expansion of the size of universities will be necessitated by the increased influx of students.

It seems to me that if we pass this bill—and I presume we will, because the overwhelming majority of members have indicated their intention to support it—we shall have made only a minor beginning in our efforts to overcome these difficulties, and a minimum beginning in the implementation of the promises made by this government to the people of Canada. I hope the promises made with regard to university education by this government when it was in opposition will not take as long to come to fruition as the promises made during the Liberal convention of 1919 which elected Mr. Mackenzie King to be leader of the party. The people of Canada have heard a great many promises made by the Liberals in years gone by, and I hope and expect they will keep a close watch on the government to see that it carries out the promises which were made in the field of education a great deal quicker than is indicated by this legislation.

Mr. Joseph Slogan (Springfield): Like many who have spoken before me I would like to say that I will support this measure to extend interest free loans to university students. I am happy that the government has finally seen fit to bring in this legislation, after so much urging on the part of the opposition. I hope it might be passed in sufficient time to make this assistance available to university students this fall.

Like many in this house who have very modest backgrounds, I had to depend in my university days on scholarships and bursaries. I can appreciate the sacrifices made by my parents to give me an education, something which they themselves did not have the privilege of acquiring. As one who was one of the first from my district to gain a university education, I appreciate the hardships which have kept many of our brighter young people from acquiring a higher education. Thus, this measure of loans is welcomed. It will assist substantially thousands of young people to carry out their university education uninterrupted.

Education today is a key that opens many doors. It moulds personality; it makes for opportunity; it erases prejudice and broadens our horizons. But just opening doors to universities does not solve all the problems which an individual must meet. They say you can lead a boy to college but you cannot