

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, June 8, 1965

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. PENNELL—ADMISSION OF ERROR IN
DEBATE

Mr. L. T. Pennell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. During the adjournment debate last evening, as set out on page 2806 of *Hansard* I stated that the hon. Member for Greenwood had moved an amendment to the Student Loans Act on behalf of his colleagues on the grounds that the Act was not within the constitutional power of this House. The hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre intervened to question the accuracy of my statement. I have now had an opportunity to check the record, and I wish to state to the House quite frankly that I was in error. The amendment raised by the hon. Member for Greenwood dealt with the constitutional position of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The hon. Member and his colleagues made it abundantly clear that they were supporting the principle set out in the bill.

I hope this explanation removes any injustice that may have been done to the hon. Member and his colleagues.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

● (2:40 p.m.)

TRANSPORTATION

TABLING OF ANNOUNCEMENT RESPECTING
STUDIES AFFECTING ATLANTIC
PROVINCES

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table, for the information of all hon. Members, a copy of an announcement being made today of the Government's intentions with respect to studies of transportation between the rest of Canada and the Atlantic Provinces as well as within the Atlantic Provinces. These studies are to be undertaken pursuant to the recommendations of the MacPherson Commission. This announcement is being made after consultation with the Premiers of the four Atlantic Provinces.

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

WAR ON POVERTY—STATEMENT OF MINISTER
CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION
BY PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry. It arises out of a speech that he made on Sunday at St. Romuald in which the Minister said that the policies in connection with the war on poverty would be administered by the Provinces. Would the Minister, in view of his lengthy explanation, tell the House what will be the function of the Federal Government in connection with this policy; and where does Mr. Kent come in?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, as I spoke in French in St. Romuald I will read from the text what I said. I will read it slowly in French:

[Translation]

Now, the Liberal party has decided to have, first, a social assistance program—

[English]

This is the Canada Assistance Plan.

[Translation]

—that, naturally, we shall have to develop with the provinces and will have to be administered by the provinces, in view of our constitutional problems. This social assistance program will at least meet the medical and other needs of people belonging to what, from a statistical standpoint, are referred to as the poor classes.

Mr. Speaker, that is what made some people come to the conclusion that all programs in the war on poverty would be administered by the provinces. I feel that this was a misinterpretation of the text I gave and I shall be glad to supply the Leader of the Opposition with a copy of that text.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have here the report which says:

[Translation]

The war against poverty federal program will only be administered by them—

[English]

It makes very clear that the administration will be a matter for the Provinces. Was the