

October 24, 1966, to the federal-provincial conference, said:

● (5:10 p.m.)

The federal government recognizes that education is, and must remain, within provincial jurisdiction.

He went on to make a distinction between education and manpower training. The present minister, in a statement made on October 25 to the federal-provincial conference, spelled out why the federal government had decided to get out of the technical and vocational training agreements which had been of tremendous value in upgrading education in all the provinces. In making a distinction between technical and vocational training and manpower training, he said:

The distinction we do make is quite different. It is not between kinds of education. It is a distinction between the needs of people—between, on the one hand, students in the ordinary sense and, on the other hand, men and women who are or have been earning their living but who need further training or retraining for productive employment.

In the same speech to the representatives of the provinces he said:

So unless you are prepared to argue that the federal government should have the permanent influence on your programs that shared-cost arrangements give us, I suggest you must accept the principle of our withdrawal. Otherwise the level of government which doesn't have constitutional responsibility would more and more be raising the money for it and having an increasing indirect influence on the school system. That would not be healthy. It would not make any kind of sense. We are not going to do it.

That was the position taken by the federal government as expressed by the minister. Now let us look at the agreement with Prince Edward Island signed by the same minister. The federal government agrees to make available under this agreement more than \$76 million. I believe it is a good agreement. I do not think enough is being done but I believe it is a good agreement. What will this money be spent on? Bear in mind that on an earlier occasion the minister said the federal government had no business to be in the field of education. Yet section 2(1) of this agreement contains the following on page 31:

The province therefore intends as an integral part of the comprehensive plan to embark on a major restructuring of its system of education.

Remember, this is a plan which is being financed in large part by the federal government. Later, the agreement says:

The basic objectives of the province in undertaking this program are to improve the quality

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of education; to double the proportion of students who complete grade 12; and in general, to give the people of Prince Edward Island a flexible education system capable of overcoming short-term problems and meeting long-term needs.

This is a worth while objective, and I support it. But it makes a mockery of all the things which the Prime Minister and the minister have enunciated as basic principles which the country must observe if the constitution is to be upheld.

Let us turn to the agreement with my own province of Manitoba. Here the federal government has agreed to spend over \$49 million. What will part of this money be spent for? I refer to page 13 of the agreement, part one, under the heading "Education". It says:

The purpose and intent of this part is to improve the educational facilities and opportunities in the area.

The province shall undertake as a program under this agreement to expand and modernize school facilities in the area through:

(a) the consolidation of existing school boards into one board for each of the five school divisions;

(b) the investment during the five years immediately following the signing of this agreement of an estimated \$4,700,000 in school facilities in the area;

(c) the construction of a technical vocational high school for a minimum of 500 students in the area at an estimated cost of \$3,000,000; and

(d) the provision of approximately \$19,000,000 during the life of this agreement to meet the increase in the cost of operation and maintenance of the school program.

So the department agrees to build in the province of Manitoba in the Interlake area a technical and vocational school of the kind which in 1966 the minister said ought not to be built by the federal government. He was junking the program to build technical and vocational schools right across the country because he believed the federal government should not be involved in this kind of activity; it was illegal under the constitution and it would break down the fabric of this country, as the Prime Minister has said so often.

Look at the agreement with New Brunswick. The federal government agrees to the expenditure of some \$25 million as its share. The amount which will be spent on education by the federal government is listed—\$5,100,000. What will it be spent for? Talk about the federal government being involved in education—here is what we find on page 15:

(a) The extensive consolidation of schools and of school districts into new and larger districts, the centres of which shall be situated in communities jointly approved by the parties hereto;