

*Proposed Federal Office of Education*

up, although it has not gone far enough. My complete plan was never put into effect.

When I did some research on this particular idea of student exchange I found a lack of standards in grading of elementary and secondary students across the country. In this regard I think the federal government could provide service by establishing an office to determine how best to standardize grading without in any way interfering with the rights of the provinces in the field of education. I see no reason why we could not provide some assistance in this way, particularly in view of the fact that with a constantly moving population, education in Canada is now a matter of national concern.

Mr. Speaker, I can foresee that part of the manpower requirement of this country will necessitate further federal involvement in this provincial field. However, in this regard we must be very careful, so long as the constitution remains as it is, not to go beyond what is strictly related to the federal field. Sometimes in our enthusiasm in relation to national co-ordination and effort we are inclined to step over the limits of what the constitution sets out as being federal jurisdiction. Our constitution still puts education under the jurisdiction of the provinces, and while we seem to be encroaching upon it from time to time as education becomes increasingly important and of national concern, we have to give due recognition to constitutional matters and should not go beyond them. I do not think that some system of grading in primary and secondary schools on a national level would be an encroachment. I do not think that any general effort related to manpower needs in Canada would be an encroachment on the provincial field.

Mr. Speaker, those are the few comments I wished to make. I hope the government will treat this as more than a routine motion and act on it post-haste.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Herman Laverdière (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Prittie) on his motion which reveals the interest he bears the great cause of education in Canada.

I suppose it is difficult, if not impossible, for one who has made a career of teaching, one who has devoted years to teaching, not to be, even as an M.P., interested to the highest degree in this worthy cause, and I congratulate the hon. member on his praiseworthy intentions in presenting this motion.

[Mr. Aiken.]

Indeed, it is necessary to co-ordinate efforts by setting up a national centre for the exchange of information. New teaching methods are being developed regularly and are being tried out with a view to giving our young people a better education and to giving the greatest possible number of them the opportunity to develop their talents.

Particularly on this last point, there is no doubt that thousands of our young people get discouraged and drop out after a few failures when, in many cases, they are not to blame for such failures.

I think especially of the many failures, and I do not believe they are restricted to some colleges I know. In many cases, the numerous failures in high school mathematics and in other subjects are disastrous because of the inevitable consequences they entail. Students who have failed lose heart and give up the studies they could have pursued if more appropriate methods had been used.

However, I fail to see the advisability or the necessity for the federal government itself to establish such a central co-ordination office. I agree that there should be a certain reorganization of the financing provided by various departments of the federal government, but as concerns this research centre, if I understood the hon. member correctly, it would be a sort of centre where the principal organizations, the principal associations, the principal institutions of the country could pool their findings and exchange and co-ordinate research on such findings. I agree that it should exist. But why should the government assume the responsibility for such a centre, when, if my information is correct, a Canada Council for research on education was established two or three years ago.

I think that the work of the Canada Council, which might be given a little more freedom, should have the kind of financing that would allow it to carry on with the work already under way.

I am of the opinion that this council, in co-operation with various teachers, parent-teachers and even students associations, with specialized professors in contact with the Quebec planning bureau or the Ontario institute for studies on education and other provincial organizations, could ensure co-ordination and enable everyone involved to get information.

I believe the federal government already has enough, if not too much authority, in the field of education. We could go on discussing