

of technical, vocational and training schools as well as for other types of training. The current Vocational Schools Assistant Agreement was entered into with the provinces in 1945 and provided for a total contribution from the federal government of \$30 million. I am happy to say that all provinces participated in this programme and that it was never suggested that the programme was unconstitutional or that it interfered with provincial autonomy.

The annual grants to universities were approved by Parliament in 1951. In 1952, the Canadian government decided to use the blocked funds held in France and in the Netherlands to provide scholarships for Canadians to study in those countries. The government asked the Royal Society of Canada to take the responsibility of selecting the candidates, and in the last four years about thirty scholarships have been awarded annually.

Finally, special grants have been given by the federal government to some private museums, and annual grants have been made to several voluntary societies such as the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts, the Canadian Writers' Foundation and the Royal Society of Canada.

This brief description shows that an extensive national cultural policy has been gradually developed by the Canadian government, although many Canadians may feel that, in certain sectors, it has been too modest and timid. I want to emphasize at this stage that this policy has always respected what I consider to be the fundamental requirements of our collective effort to develop our cultural life. The policy has been aimed at strengthening and developing our main cultures without attempting to impose either of them upon any Canadians. It is based upon the principle that private initiative had the main responsibilities in most aspects of our cultural development. It has provided financial assistance to individuals, voluntary organizations and institutions in order to support them without attempting, however, to control their activities. Finally, this policy has also included the setting up of several public agencies which were deemed essential for the development and the adequate expression of our cultural life.

These fundamental principles of our national cultural policy are strongly supported by the Canadian people, as the hearings of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences have shown. I read the report of that Commission very carefully and I am convinced that those principles have also inspired all its recommendations. The Commission paid very few compliments to the Canadian government but, if I am not mistaken, it did not criticize the general objectives and orientation of our policy. It recommended, however, that this traditional policy be strengthened and extended to new fields of cultural activity.

Since the publication of the report of the Commission, several of its recommendations have been implemented. Others have had to wait; but my colleagues and I have reached the conclusion that the time has now come for their implementation.

You will probably recall that the Massey Commission had recommended that the several existing functions of the National Museum be separated and expanded, and that an historical museum be established.