

*Canadian Post-secondary Institutions*

The decision has already caused an increase in the number of bursaries under the Canadian Government's bursary program for academics at the master's, doctorate and post-doctorate level, from the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Japan, Mexico and Brazil. The program also provides bursaries for students from 15 other countries. In addition, it seems the Department of External Affairs has started discussions with several other countries in Asia and Latin America with a view to expanding the scope of the program.

The program is based strictly on reciprocity. In other words, for every bursary offered by Canada to another country, we expect that country to reciprocate with a bursary for one of our own promising students. Furthermore, the program is structured in a way to ensure that the beneficiary has a specific reason for studying in Canada rather than the United States or another country. The reason could be that the student's study program focuses on Canada, its history, literature, and so forth, or on an area in which Canada has special expertise or has an international reputation, such as telecommunications technology or computer science. Recently, we have seen what a company like Cascades Paper has been able to accomplish at the international level.

These rules help to ensure that the foreign student is able to receive in Canada the best of what we have to offer. And of course, Mr. Speaker, anyone going through the riding of Chambly will get the best of what we have to offer here in Canada. In every case, especially in the case of countries like Mexico, Brazil or Egypt, students can acquire the kind of expertise and knowledge they can put to good use in pursuing the development of their own country. During his or her stay in one of our universities, the student cannot help but acquire a better appreciation and understanding of Canada. Similarly, Canadian students who get reciprocal bursaries come back home with a more mature understanding of the world, and certainly a better judgment and also a better knowledge of the country where they studied. Their expertise can only be to the advantage of Canada. In short, this program which is being expanded to include more bursaries and more countries, contributes very directly to two stated objectives: encourage development and promote international understanding.

Another important program in External Affairs contributes directly to the stated objectives and provides enormous advantages for Canada. This program helps Canadian studies abroad, that is to say that it encourages foreign institutions and professors to increase education, research and publications about Canada. Hon. Members might recall that in the field of research and education, the Ministerial Task Force on Program Review had indicated that, in order to demonstrate the increased interest of Canada for other nations and to reinforce our relations with them, it would seem appropriate to broaden the scope of these programs. In fact, the Government's decision to increase the education budget of international relations programs will permit this. I understand, for example, that programs designed to help Canadian studies

will be initiated this year in other countries in Asia and Latin America. These efforts will complement those already undertaken in Japan, the United States and Western Europe. In fact, there are now 13 foreign associations of Canadian studies, representing 20 countries. While, barely 10 years ago, some 20,000 students throughout the world were taking courses on Canada, Mr. Speaker, it is felt today that, in the United States alone, over 20,000 students are taking courses every year on what is taking place in Canada.

The fact that foreign universities are offering programs on Canadian studies and other subjects concerning relations and common interests between Canada and their own country contributes very directly to the promotion of improved international understanding.

Some could question the so-called economic advantages of such programs for Canada. It is significant that according to an analysis of Canadian study expenses in the United States, for every dollar which the Canadian Government grants to the American community for Canadian studies, the latter spends \$3 in Canada. This means a ratio of \$1 for \$3 invested in Canada to reinforce Canadian studies at home. The nature of these expenses is particularly noteworthy, considering that a large percentage of these are made for magazines, specialized publications and Canadian literary or university books. In other words, thanks to these ventures, we are creating a market for our own cultural and university production, thereby reinforcing the position of our cultural industries.

In view of that, it would seem that the goals set forth by the opposition Member and the potential benefits for Canada can be achieved by measures such as the promotion of Canadian studies abroad, rather than an increase in the number of foreign students in Canada. In other words, bringing Canada to the student may be just as efficient if not more efficient than bringing the student over to study in Canada.

At any rate, it is my conviction, Mr. Speaker, that those comments prove the Government not only realized the value of university exchanges but implemented realistic, sensible and extremely efficient programs to support those exchanges.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like once more to emphasize the importance of those exchanges to give our graduates new horizons, new opportunities in order that they become better ambassadors for this country, and at the same time that Canada may better know what is going on elsewhere, in other countries, in order to improve our already excellent external relations with the majority of countries.

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey) reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, in order to foster the development of other countries and to promote international understanding and in order to allow Canadian society to benefit to a greater extent academically, culturally, politically and financially, the government should consider the advisability of developing policies and implementing programs which provide greater access by international students to Canadian post-secondary institutions.