

that the various federal governments had made to education. I was interested to note that he and I are in agreement on this matter of accountability. I cannot see how we could go on indefinitely having the federal government pumping such huge sums of money into post-secondary education and not require some degree of accountability. I do not say there is anything seriously wrong with that. I realize there are inherent dangers that must be obvious; nevertheless, it is something that Senator Hicks said we could live with.

If I may go back again, I am reminded of the building of the Trans-Canada Highway. Highways and roads were a provincial responsibility. Nevertheless, in the early 1950s the Government of Canada came into the picture through the medium of the Trans-Canada Highway Agreements.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): For inter-provincial work.

Senator Rowe: Yes. But there was accountability. I spent five years as Minister of Highways and I know we received grants of 50 per cent to start with, and later it was raised to 90 per cent, but certainly we had to account for it. I do not think it in any way upset or disturbed any of the inherent rights of the provinces in those matters. I give that as an opinion, for what it is worth. I do not think the matter of visibility has any great potential hazards at all. This matter of visibility is as old as federal-provincial relations.

Going back to the Trans-Canada Highway—and I was as much to blame for this as anybody—when the then Minister of Public Works, Bob Winters, came to Newfoundland he would see the signs showing what the Government of Newfoundland was doing. He objected, as did subsequent Ministers of Public Works, and rightly so. I am sure that I would have done the same had I been in their position. I would have objected to the fact that wherever one looked one saw the province getting the credit.

● (1500)

Hon. George J. McIlraith: They were wonderful signs.

Senator Rowe: Yes, they were. They were good signs. I helped to design some of them. So I do not believe we need spend much time on this matter of visibility.

I was interested in the figures prepared by Senator Hicks which appear in *Hansard*. In recent years Ottawa has contributed 83 per cent of the costs of post-secondary education in Newfoundland, 98 per cent in New Brunswick and approximately 50 per cent in Alberta and Quebec. Those are significant figures.

Hon. G. I. Smith: Would the honourable senator be kind enough to give me the reference in *Hansard* for those figures?

Senator Rowe: Yes, I will be glad to. In connection with Senator Hicks' speech on February 18 of this year, the tables were printed as an appendix. Senator Macquarrie's speech was given on December 2, when he introduced the motion.

I come now to Senator Macquarrie's use of the words "incomprehensible" and "iniquitous," with reference to the budget of the Minister of Finance or what was hoped to be

done with respect to post-secondary education. I say quite seriously that we have to be careful here that we do not fall into the old trap of looking for everything to be in black and white, looking for the good guys and the bad guys. There are no villains in this situation. We may differ in our approach to education and with regard to the political aspects of the various federal-provincial agreements, but I do not believe that we should allow education to become a political football, as has so often happened in the past.

In this connection, may I say that I do not believe that what the federal Minister of Finance is doing is either incomprehensible or iniquitous. I cannot accept that a man who was a distinguished academic, a distinguished professor in his own right, is not as concerned about the future of post-secondary education as I am or any other honourable senator; and, by the same token, with regard to the Honourable Mr. Regan, who, as we know, is deeply involved with these matters, I do not believe that his record while Premier of Nova Scotia—later I shall refer to Nova Scotia in connection with this subject of post-secondary education—in support of post-secondary education, and indeed education at all levels, can be criticized. However, I will come back to that in a moment, because I believe we can learn a good deal from what has happened in the province of Nova Scotia.

Also on this point, in the federal cabinet we have the Honourable William Rompkey as spokesman for Newfoundland, at the federal level, on education and other matters, and I am sure that no one can accuse him of not being concerned about the future of post-secondary education, if for no other reason than the simple fact that he is a professional educator in his own right. He has three university degrees, one in English, one in education and another in adult education. Because he advocates either this or that, no one should assume that he is no longer interested in or concerned about post-secondary education. That would be arrant nonsense. I am not implying that Senator Macquarrie tried to make us believe that—I do not believe he did; but there are people who appear to be inclined to distinguish between the good fellows and the bad.

I do not believe that the persons I have named are less concerned about education than, let us say, are Senators Macquarrie, Lamontagne, Hicks, Yuzyk or myself, all of whom have some background in education at the professional level.

One fact emerges from the figures given by Senator Hicks and Senator Perrault, which I believe can give us some degree of comfort. It is that since the federal government entered the picture in the early 1950s, when Mr. St. Laurent was Prime Minister, the federal government's contribution has continued to rise, and I believe that the federal government's contribution will continue to rise.

There is, of course, the growing fear—particularly in academic quarters—connected with the federal government's concern over the problems of unemployment, particularly in this technological age, that the needs of technology will be met at the expense of the traditional university programs. I believe