

*Proposed Adult Education Council*

Of course I must say at the same time there is a national aspect to education. It is because education does have a national aspect that I believe there are some things the federal government can offer to education in general, a service which can be given by the federal government better than it can be given by the government of any of the provinces. This is particularly true in the field of research. It is because of the use of the word "research" in this resolution which the hon. member has brought forward that I have so much interest in it.

I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. MacRae). In this particular field, of course, he speaks with a professional background and with many years of experience which would command wide respect for his opinion. I think he gave a very practical view of what this problem is. The other day when I was looking over this resolution and wondering what could be said, I looked back over one of the provincial reports of the department of education of Newfoundland for the year 1959. Dr. Florence O'Neil, the director of the division of adult education, in making her report to the provincial government of Newfoundland, began with these words:

One of the important and worth-while long range objectives of a progressive country is the development of well informed people.

I think that one sentence, Mr. Speaker, sums up the whole purpose, not only of adult education but of all education in the widest sense of the word. We in Canada live in a country that is becoming highly industrialized. We spend millions and millions of dollars every year to refine raw materials that are to be used in industry. We spend millions and millions of dollars to improve the methods to be used by industry. I see nothing wrong with spending money to refine the human resources of our country so that they can make a better contribution to the country during the period in which they live.

We live, of course, in an age of automation. We live at a time when there are many new jobs which were never heard of when I was a boy. I do not believe that, in the long run, automation is going to make less jobs for Canadians. I believe that in the long run it will make more jobs for Canadians, but these jobs will only be for those who are prepared to take them. I think that any scheme to improve education across this country, whether it be provincial or federal, should be in accordance with our needs and not at all in accordance with any scare that might be thrown at us by any nation outside the confines of our own borders. Over the

last few years we have heard a great deal about the emphasis being placed on scientific education by the Russians.

There is no doubt about the fact that here in this country, indeed for many years to come and maybe for all time, there will be a great demand for people with scientific training. There are some people who, when they look at what is being done in other countries, feel we are not doing enough in the field of scientific education. I have said this before in this house but I should like to say it again now, that I believe we should develop a system of education that is suitable to our needs. I hope the day will never come when we are going to be stampeded into adopting some form of education just because that form is being followed in some other country. I feel that we in this country would be making a terrible mistake if we were to have our educational system loaded on the side of science without having an equal balance on the side of the social sciences and humanity.

However, I recognize the need for scientific training. As I said before, we are living in an age of automation when there are new kinds of jobs coming up every day, and when there are new types of training required if men are going to fill those jobs efficiently and well. When the hon. member for Peterborough gave his definition of adult education, he gave a very wide meaning to the words. I agree with that because, when we are talking about adult education we should be referring to something which is broad in its concept so that it will take in all the various organizations and various programs which provide knowledge and training, not only for young Canadians but Canadians of all ages. We do, of course, have our basic program of elementary high school education. This is followed by our program of university education. Obviously, for various reasons, not everybody is able to graduate from high school. Only a small percentage of our population can go to university, and a smaller percentage of those can graduate.

But whatever the reasons are for people not being able to complete high school or not being able to go to university, we will have to recognize the fact that if everybody went to high school and even if everybody were able to graduate from university, there would still be a need in the later years to acquire knowledge in some specific form. I might say that if we are to be able to handle the jobs and challenges which industry offers today, then there will be an ever increasing need for improving our knowledge and training.

I believe that over the years we have not had the kindest feelings towards adult