

*The Address—Mr. Arsenault*

As we will see further in its context, Mr. Paré, by "culture" which he puts between quotation marks, wishes to identify it with "intellectual life". I now continue this quotation:

This report is a stock-taking of our country's possessions in its most concrete aspects, but the vigour of Christian thought pervades it all, in such a way that the facts themselves are joined together by the same ideal in the fashion of pearls mounted upon a string. It is also the first official harbinger of a policy which gives to French- as well English-speaking Canadians a necessary part in the fostering of a true Canadian culture.

In short, the Massey report contains only one conclusion: the Canadian nation cannot exist without a dual culture and even this culture cannot exist, either in Canada or elsewhere, if it breaks off with its spiritual sources.

There, in fact, is the philosophers' republic dreamt of by all Canadians.

Is that what the member for Labelle and other vilifiers of the Massey report call seeds of death? I challenge the member for Labelle or anyone in this house to point to a single paragraph of the Massey report aiming a blow at provincial rights, even if with a magnifying glass they go over the two subjects most directly related to provincial autonomy in the field of education: assistance to the universities and the granting of scholarships to students.

Assistance to the universities on the basis of grants equal to the amount represented by a distribution of 50 cents per head of the population in each province of this country is based entirely upon the same principle as family allowances in this country.

The law grants ownership of the family allowances to the children themselves. The government, however, nominates a responsible person to whom the money is paid and who acts merely as administrator. Such person may be the mother, the father or any other person who looks after the children or even, in certain cases, a welfare institution. The distribution of family allowances has a strictly mathematical basis. There is no discretion in connection with the distribution, the children and parents are not subjected to any test. Thus, the Christian and democratic concept of society and the state has been preserved. There is no danger of jeopardizing the unity, autonomy and liberty of the family. Family allowances are one of the most beneficial measures ever adopted by the Liberal party. However, only children under the age of sixteen can benefit from those allowances.

Assistance to universities, on the other hand, comes as a sort of necessary adjunct to this Family Allowances Act.

[Mr. Arsenault.]

Today, because of the economic development that followed upon progressive industrialization, children undertake long studies so as to prepare themselves to earn a decent living in keeping with the standards of modern society. Unfortunately, many of our farmers and workers cannot afford to pay the high price of long university training for those of their children who have special talents.

Realizing this, the royal commission on national development in the arts, letters and sciences recommended federal assistance to universities and the maintenance and enlargement of the dominion-provincial agreement regarding the distribution of scholarships to undergraduates.

In the case of family allowances, the government designated a responsible person, usually the mother, as the recipient of money intended for the children's welfare. The money paid to universities in conformity with the recommendations of the Massey report will benefit students in the same way that family allowances paid to the mother benefit children under sixteen years of age. In this case, the same automatic, mathematical formula is used. First comes a payment equal to 50 cents for every man, woman and child in this country. Then this payment is distributed among the provinces on a per capita basis. Then, within each province, payments are made in accordance with the enrolment in each university.

But that is not all. In order, not only to respect provincial autonomy, but also to ensure the no less real autonomy of the universities, these grants are distributed by a committee made up of representatives of the Conference of Canadian Universities, on which sit representatives of Laval and Montreal universities. Consequently, in the distribution of these grants by the federal government, there is absolutely no chance for discrimination. The teaching staff and students of the various universities do not have to submit to any investigation, are subject to no coercion, to no test whatever. Such guarantees are unfortunately not always provided in grants made by certain provincial governments.

As far as the recommendations of the Massey report on the distribution of scholarships to undergraduates are concerned, their sole effect is to maintain and extend the agreement already concluded between the federal government and the provinces in this respect. However, the Massey report draws an important distinction in the matter of scholarships.