

*Canada Student Loans Act*

type of faculty. Instead, Mr. Speaker, our universities wisely specialize. For example, I believe that in the whole of the country there are only four provincial forestry schools. Therefore people from the other six provinces have to go to one of these four provinces if they want to become forestry engineers. There are also a limited number of dental schools and veterinary schools. Apart from this, I think it is a good idea that students in Canada go to a province other than their own in order to obtain part of their education. It is good for them from the point of view of national unity, something which we are talking about all the time. Therefore this sort of mobility should be encouraged.

That is why I am sorry that we have provincial quotas. I should like to see a national fund set up to which all people who are eligible for university entrance in this country could apply. It seems to me that if sufficient funds were made available this would be a perfectly fair way to operate. I suppose the provincial quotas were instituted because at the time the measure was introduced in 1964 charges were made by some members that it represented interference on the part of the federal government in the realm of education. I do not want to go into that subject in complete detail today. I think one could make a good case in support of federal involvement in education. I did so earlier this year when I introduced a resolution to establish a federal office of education which was debated on February 23. However, I will leave that there.

Long before the Canada student loans fund came into existence the federal government was assisting students, generally postgraduate students. Through the means of the Canada Council and the National Research Council the government has given aid to education for a very long time. It seems to me that the Canada student loans fund is of that same general nature. There is nothing at all wrong with the federal government wanting to assist students in this country by means of the Canada Council and N.R.C. through which it has done so for many years.

There is one other way, Mr. Speaker, in which the federal government could give direct assistance to more students than it is helping at the moment. We regret that the scholarship plan which was advocated by the Liberal party during a number of election campaigns, I believe starting in 1958, has not yet been brought about and that we are still confronted with this student loans fund.

However, here is a way in which the government could assist.

For a number of years the federal government has been financing the education of people destined to become regular officers in the armed forces. If they passed the requirements which were demanded by the Department of National Defence these students entered university. Not only did they get their fees paid but they also received an allowance and had summer employment guaranteed them. This scheme has been in operation for personnel required by all branches of the armed forces but particularly for medical personnel. In return for this they have to undertake to serve with the armed forces for a period of years.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the federal government could go further in this field. I am thinking particularly now of the federal civil service. This is a very large organization having a great demand for professional and technical personnel of all kinds. They have to compete with private business, with provincial governments, with municipal governments and with the universities themselves for the people who are needed to staff the departments of the federal government.

I suggest that the Civil Service Commission ought to be given authority to enter into some kind of arrangement to finance the education of students. In return for that assistance from the Civil Service Commission these students could guarantee to serve in the federal civil service for a period of years, just as the people in the armed forces who are taking advantage of the R.O.T.P. plan guarantee to serve in the forces for a given period.

Not only does the civil service have trouble generally competing for the graduates of our universities but it has a problem in one particular field, a problem which will reappear when the report of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism is presented. We hear the complaint that not enough French speaking university graduates are entering the federal civil service, whether to serve in Ottawa or somewhere else, but that they are working for the government of Quebec or for private industry in that province. It seems to me that this type of plan could be used to attract more French speaking graduates to the federal civil service. I suggest that a plan be instituted much along the same lines as the R.O.T.P. plan for the armed forces and that we not only pay