

The Address—Mr. Dubé

what the Conservative prime minister said in this house in 1896:

• (12:50 p.m.)

[English]

I say with knowledge that but for the consent to the proposal of Mr. Galt, who represented especially the Protestants of Quebec, and but for the assent of that conference to the proposal of Mr. Galt, that in the Confederation Act should be embodied a clause which would protect the rights of minorities, whether Catholics or Protestants, in this country there would have been no Confederation It is significant that for the clause protecting minorities the measure of Confederation would not have been accomplished.

[Translation]

There is no need to go over the far from glorious record of provincial governments with regard to minorities to realize that those governments failed to assume their responsibilities with regard to minorities and to hope that the federal government will fill the vacuum and start right now to legislate in that field.

In all fairness, however, one must point out two provincial exceptions. The province of Quebec has always been very generous toward its minority and over the last few years New Brunswick has started to legislate to give everyone equal opportunities.

The second task of a Department of Education and Culture would be to co-ordinate the numerous federal projects related to culture and education now scattered among several departments.

The federal government is spending several million dollars every year in the fields of culture and education.

Last year I put on the order paper the following question:

Question No. 564.

In each year since 1960, what have been the total amounts expended by the federal government, including per capita grants, in assistance to education in the province of New Brunswick?

I will spare you the other years, but here is the breakdown of the figures obtained from the departments for the sole province of New Brunswick during 1964-1965.

Citizenship and Immigration	\$ 246,847.00
Finance	1,234,000.00
Fisheries	8,009.00
Labour	3,984,270.00
Health—	
Technical training for workers	286,089.00
Grants for training	9,728.00
Health and amateur sport	11,600.00
Veterans Affairs	45,599.00
Total	<u>\$5,826,142.00</u>

[Mr. Dubé.]

The preceding figures come from six departments only for one province only and for one year only. It is true that it is the most picturesque of our provinces, but it is one of the least populated.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it one o'clock?

[English]

At one o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

Mr. Dubé: Mr. Speaker, in an article written by Pierre O'Neil, of the newspaper *La Presse*, January 20, 1966, pointed out that Ottawa was appropriating \$500 million for education.

Here are a few of the figures quoted in this article:

- Scholarships and various types of assistance to students: \$13.7 million;
- Capital expenditures and operating costs of military colleges: \$716 million;
- Canada Council grants: \$3.5 million;
- Education of children of members of the armed forces: \$17 million;
- Education in penitentiaries: \$1.1 million;
- School broadcasts, films: \$3 million;
- Money remitted on schools built under the municipal development and loan board program;
- Grants in lieu of municipal taxes by government organizations (school taxes): \$18.4 million;

Mr. Speaker, in his message to Congress on January 12, 1965, the President of the United States, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, submitted a massive \$4.1 billion program for 1966 to improve education in the United States.

Here is what President Johnson said:

[English]

In all that we do, we mean to strengthen our state and community education systems. Federal assistance does not mean federal control—as past programs have proven.

The late Senator Robert Taft declared: Education is primarily a state function—but in the fields of health, relief and medical care, the federal government has a secondary obligation to see that there is a basic floor under those essential services, for all adults and children in the United States.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I submit also that federal aid to education does not mean federal control. On the other hand, a federal department of education and culture would do two things:

- 1—Protect the rights of minorities, and
- 2—Co-ordinate federal assistance to education and culture, while respecting the fundamental principle that education is the right of all Canadians.