

The Address—Mr. Pearson

remains a function of the provinces. No federal government would desire to do anything which would interfere with that responsibility. However, helping the individual to take advantage of education is the concern of all Canadians. Far too many of our boys and girls are leaving school at 16 and drifting into aimless occupations, and many of them should remain at school to go on to university.

Mr. Monteith: We did something about it.

Mr. Pearson: You have not done nearly enough about it. I will tell you something more you can do about it, but you won't be given a chance. Family allowances should be extended from age 16 to age 21 for all of those boys and girls who are continuing their education. Our program—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: I know my hon. friends opposite object to this. They show it by their attitude. They will have no part of it. They do not believe in family allowances for this purpose, obviously, or they would not take this attitude. At one time they did not believe in family allowances at all.

We have already provided, Mr. Speaker, for a system of university scholarships and university loans which will enable every boy and girl in this country to get a university education if he or she can qualify for it, irrespective of his or her financial position. Well, that is one aspect and only one aspect of the Liberal program for growth, for jobs, for progress and for development.

Mr. Fulton: You are advocating bigger deficits or higher taxes.

Mr. Pearson: As I have said, this program will cost money but it will be an investment expenditure which it will be desirable to make. When this kind of expenditure is made and our economy is moving forward, then we can take further steps in the direction of social progress. There are two things specifically we can do under conditions of expanding economy, and which a Liberal government will do. The first is health care and the problems of old age, health care which has been so ignored by the government opposite.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is the best laugh yet.

Mr. Winkler: That is a good one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. If I could have the floor for just a moment, and although I know the Leader of the Opposition is fully capable of looking after himself, I wish to point out that there is a murmur of conversation coming to me from around the chamber and this makes it impossible to hear the

[Mr. Pearson.]

interjections. I would ask hon. members for their co-operation in allowing the Leader of the Opposition to conclude.

Mr. Fulton: It is a very boring speech, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Pearson: If you do not hear them, Mr. Speaker, I do, and they indicate quite an agitation in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite. I have just said that in the field of health care they have done practically nothing in the past five years. They have referred this very important matter of health care to a royal commission, and this is what they always do when they are up against any problem.

In health care we have a clear objective. We know what we are going to do, and what we will be able to do before very long. We must make sure that every Canadian family can get good health care when it is needed, without fear of crippling bills. I ask hon. gentlemen opposite if they take exception to that plan.

Mr. Monteith: Not at all.

Mr. Pearson: Then why did you not do something? Of course, Mr. Speaker, the minister of health well realizes—

Mr. Monteith: The price tag.

Mr. Pearson: I think he is realizing things very acutely tonight.

Mr. Starr: Why did you not implement it since 1919?

Mr. Pearson: I know that the obstacles to such government action are very serious. The obstacles to doing it efficiently, responsibly and fairly, are serious. After the experience of Saskatchewan no one can underestimate the importance of the obstacles, but we have surely advanced to the point where these difficulties must be faced and solved. In the next Liberal government that will be done, and the question will not be referred to another royal commission.

Our plan will provide medical services without charge to children, to old people and to the unemployed. It will make sure that other people, people who are working, can get any medical care they need at a cost they can afford. This, Mr. Speaker, is a responsible, step-by-step plan that must be worked out in co-operation with the provinces and the medical profession. As I said before, for health care the present government offers nothing. It has tried to bury the problem, like so many others, by submitting it to a royal commission.

There is also the progress that should be made in the field of social security, arising