

*Interim Supply*

clear statement of the problem of enabling Canadian universities and colleges effectively to meet their great responsibilities to the Canadian people. The brief outlines three specific needs. These are, first, grants for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick universities made necessary by the number of universities. Second is the expanding need for new construction of research facilities in medical schools and university-affiliated teaching hospitals. By the way, many of us heard the forcefully outlined statement about this last Thursday by Dr. John McCreary, dean of the faculty of medicine at the University of British Columbia. The third specific problem was the provision of funds for the construction of university libraries and the purchase of books and library research aids. Of course, these problems do not touch the over-all serious crisis concerning aid to universities as such.

In its brief to the Prime Minister the foundation makes the bold and arresting statement that it is—

—alarmed by the fact that Canadian institutions of higher learning are steadily falling further behind in providing facilities for rapidly rising student enrolment and in satisfying the growing demand for professional and post graduate education. Available facilities become each year more inadequate.

I have had the privilege of a close association with the president of the University of New Brunswick. I know of the work he is doing and I know of the crisis of priorities as it refers to that university's plans. I know that prompt action is essential. Last month Dr. Davidson Dunton, president of Carleton University in a report published last month which received some editorial comment, gave this problem careful and thorough attention so far as his particular university was concerned.

The Canadian universities foundation brief is studded with words like "crisis", "urgency", "increased enrolments", "need for action", "promptness", and many others. These are not idle words loosely spread through the brief; they are all documented by statistics and examples of their aptness.

I urge from the remote opposition back-benchers immediate action on the part of the government. We do not need large committees planning for our one hundredth birthday. Our centennial program could be started tomorrow. It could take the form of a plan for massive attention to the known needs of our universities. It would be a recognition by the government that it understands the need for priority in this area of our responsibilities. We seem to be able to commit millions for world fairs, but are hesitant about a genuine and concentrated effort to aid the universities of Canada. I commend the brief of the

Canadian universities foundation to the government and, if I may say so, to parliament. In support of this brief, if any support is needed, let me remind the committee that just two years ago the national conference of Canadian universities and colleges met in Ottawa. The proceedings were published and the resolutions are there for us to heed. I also commend this document to the government and to parliament.

Surely, we must acknowledge a "crisis of priorities" in Canada. I suggest that one of our centennial projects could take on philosophical, yet surely basic, overtones and that we give our universities and schools the necessary facilities so that they shall not, as Mr. Walter Lippmann suggested over 20 years ago, "continue sending out into the world men who no longer understand the creative principle of the society in which they must live."

I have a second and more modest centennial project. I deplore the fact that we seem to need deadlines and anniversaries to focus our attention on needs which know no such artificial timetables. Could we not make funds available so that by 1967 Canada would have ten times more young people serving in other parts of the world under the auspices of the Canadian universities service overseas?

I had a modest proposal before this parliament but, by a paradox which I have not forgotten, it was talked out by the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, who defeated the distinguished former secretary of state for external affairs. This was irony of the highest order. I saw many of these dedicated Canadian men and women when I was in Malaysia recently. This program needs money from government. It has not enough, now, to look after the volunteers who are ready to serve. I suppose that if the energy and funds used over the years to get an acceptable design for a Canadian flag had been used to pay travelling expenses for Canadian technicians and teachers to go across the earth, the current need would have been met many times over. In my simple philosophy this is another question, if not a crisis, of priorities.

I have one or two other observations to make about my journey. First of all, the people serving Canada in embassies and high commission offices abroad were most thoughtful and attentive. I thank them publicly for this. But I hope the committee studying the Canada Elections Act will suggest a formula whereby these Canadian citizens can vote in future elections. This should be easy to get established. Most other countries give their foreign service staffs the privilege of voting. Canada should do this, too, and I hope the committee will attend to the matter soon.