

*The Address—Mr. Arsenault*

I am sure hon. members generally will welcome any measure of assistance given in this way to the universities of Canada. In view of the fact that on behalf of the party I have the privilege to lead I proposed some time ago that these grants should be made as soon as possible, naturally we will welcome the grants to whatever extent they are made at this time.

I think there will also be general agreement with the view expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) that a method should be adopted which will retain the complete jurisdiction of provincial authorities over education within the province.

However, neither the formal assurances given in this house by the Prime Minister of Canada nor even the statements of policy made by his own political leader are enough for the member for Labelle (Mr. Courtemanche).

Though the member's both feet and perhaps even his head are in the Progressive Conservative party, his restless spirit nevertheless continues to hover in the gloomy shadows of national disunity. Thus it is that he hears voices. And it was these voices, of course, that charged him with the pressing duty of rising in this house, on November 12 last, to denounce in really touching terms the recommendations of the Massey report on assistance to universities.

His speech, like those of many others of the same ilk, can be summarized somewhat as follows: "It originates in Ottawa, therefore it is no good".

His chief, the leader of the opposition and leader of the Progressive Conservative party in this country, stated that it was a good thing, that it was urgent and even constitutional. But the member for Labelle says it is not a good thing, it is neither urgent nor constitutional. There again the Conservative party is playing its usual game: one policy for Quebec and another policy for the rest of Canada.

The poor Conservative party does not seem to have improved much since I left its ranks in 1944. It often offers us very painful sights.

We have on the one hand a leader of the Progressive Conservative party in the Montreal district denouncing the recommendations of the Massey commission as an encroachment on the rights of the provinces, while on the other hand, as I say, his chief, the leader of the opposition, speaking on behalf of the party to which the member for Labelle belongs, sees no encroachment at all on the rights of the provinces, but states:

On behalf of the party I have the privilege to lead I proposed that these grants to our universities should be made as soon as possible.

And yet God knows how the leader of the opposition never misses a chance to bring up

in this house the question of provincial autonomy, whenever he thinks it will further the aims of his party.

Pity the Progressive Conservative party! It has been shown recently in this house that the foremost care of a section of that party is to make sure that an obsolete colonial designation be eternally affixed to the name "Canada". Imagine! What an awful tragedy for the empire: the word "Dominion" is being removed from our statutes and our country will be known only under its real name, "Canada"! To our Conservative friends, that is a dreadful thing.

To the propaganda directed against the Massey report by the member for Labelle (Mr. Courtemanche) and others, to the attacks directed against Rev. Father Georges Henri Levesque, one of the truly great men in French Canada, I much prefer the unbiased opinion of the comité de la survivance française as stated in *Le Devoir* of June 23, 1951. I quote:

As spokesmen for our minority groups, the committee is very pleased with the basic finding of the report: the need of a dual culture, French and English, in the whole of Canada. It agrees also with the royal commission where the latter recommends that this dual culture should free itself of all colonialism, especially of any American influence, in order to become more and more Canadian in character.

To the charges levelled against the Massey report. I prefer also the recommendations made by the fourth congress of the association canadienne des éducateurs de langue française, which read as follows:

Whereas the theme of the IVth congress is the assertion of the bicultural character of Canada; and whereas the report of the royal commission on national development in the arts, letters and sciences confirms that bicultural character of the Canadian nation, the association canadienne des éducateurs de langue française:

1. Is happy to note that the report is imbued with spirituality, asserts the spiritualistic basis of our culture, takes a particular interest in minority groups and advocates true Canadianism.

2. Hopes that, in carrying out the recommendations of the report, the bicultural heritage of the Canadian people will be protected and enlarged, and that provincial rights in the matter of education will be safeguarded.

To the denunciations of the Massey report and of federal aid to Canadian universities, I still prefer the testimony of an independent and highly talented newspaperman, Mr. Lorenzo Paré, *L'Action Catholique's* representative in the press gallery. He recently acted as secretary of an intergovernmental conference. In the November 13 issue of his newspaper he wrote as follows:

That is why the Massey report has aroused intellectual enthusiasm throughout Canada. It is an all-time Canadian best-seller. It is the work of the worthiest representatives of a Canadian "culture" which they earnestly seek to foster.