

allowances designed to encourage youth of 16 and 17 to stay in school. We also established a student loan program, which has been extensively used and very favourably received, so much so, that amendments authorizing increases in the amounts available will come before us this session.

What is now proposed is a comprehensive program of scholarships and bursaries to round out the student aid picture. The fundamental objective is to insure that no young Canadian of ability be deprived of higher education. It is an objective that all can subscribe to without reservation, and I am sure we all look forward to its enactment.

Honourable senators, I want to dwell for a minute on the reasons for the federal Government making additional resources available for higher education. It seems to me that there are two very valid reasons for the federal Government's concern and involvement. The language of the Throne Speech puts it on the basis of developing the "human resources of Canada". H. G. Wells put it in another and perhaps more graphic, way, when he wrote:

The history of man is becoming more and more a race between education and disaster.

A second explanation of federal Government assistance to higher education can be developed from a view of education as investment. The Second Annual Review of the Economic Council of Canada, published a few weeks ago, traces in detail the relationship of education to economic growth. Its analysis clearly shows that society's educational "stock" is a vital conditioning element of its gross national income. The Council concludes its analysis of this relationship by underscoring "the need for sustained and unflagging efforts to strengthen and expand the educational base for long-term future growth of the economy and the living standards of Canadians."

Before resuming my seat, there is one other subject referred to in the Throne Speech upon which I would like to comment. I am thinking here of the Canada Assistance Plan, which has been a subject of discussion of at least two federal-provincial conferences, and which will shortly come before Parliament for approval.

It is with some trepidation that I refer to this subject because it is now part of the great—and, if I may be permitted to so describe it—political debate about Old Age

Pensions. In order to place the Canada Assistance program in its proper perspective, I must ask for your indulgence while I briefly review the actions taken in respect of pensions by this Government.

Since taking office in April 1963, the Government has increased the Old Age Security pension to \$75 per month, and is reducing by successive stages the qualifying age for these payments to 65 years. Beginning in January of this year, they are paid to persons age 69, and by 1970 will be paid to everyone from his or her 65th birthday. In addition, Parliament has legislated that in future pensions will automatically be adjusted upwards in line with changes in living costs.

This Government has also established the Canada Pension Plan, which came into operation January 1 of this year and is the greatest single advance ever realized in providing adequate retirement income. It is an earnings-related pension plan with a ten-year transitional period, with a maximum pension of \$104.00 per month available from age 65. Benefits from the Canada Pension Plan are, of course, in addition to the \$75 per month payment out of Old Age Security funds. The combination of the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security will provide an adequate retirement income for the great majority of Canadians.

However, in the Government's programs for retirement income for our senior citizens there exists a gap which needs to be filled. This gap centres on those now retired and who, therefore, get no benefit from the Canada Pension Plan, and on those who will be retiring and who will get little or no benefit from the Canada Pension Plan.

The Government has two proposals to provide additional assistance for this particular group.

The first proposal is the Canada Assistance Plan. This is a program which has been worked out in consultation with the provinces, because it will operate in an area where provincial jurisdiction is paramount. In brief, the plan will help those who, because of age or other reasons, could not qualify for the benefits that will become available under the Canada Pension Plan or who will need additional benefits. It will help such people according to their needs without a means test, and there is no ceiling on the level of payment envisaged.