

Business of the House

(Text):

Mr. D. R. Gundlock (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to compliment the hon. member for Davenport for bringing this resolution before the house. It is not only needed but long overdue. Much has been said here about higher and lower education and all facets of education. In my travels across this country and in my experience in the field of education at all levels I see only a spirit of co-operation among all levels of government whether federal, provincial or municipal. I have never encountered any criticism of a suggestion of this kind.

In my experience the main reason for the introduction of a resolution of this nature is simply that we must have a basic standard. Reference is made to various standards on higher, medium or lower levels but certainly it is logical that we have a basic standard of education. Where it comes from and how it is arrived at are questions which in my opinion are beside the point. The adoption of this resolution could well be a stepping stone toward the realization of this necessary standard.

I wish to say a few words about one of the problems leading to the need of a basic standard for all Canadian students regardless of geographic and financial differences. In this day and age with communications and transportation as they are and with the demands and pressures of a fluctuating and mobile society it not infrequently happens that a student is moved from one part of a nation to another sometimes within the school year. Not just dozens or hundreds but literally thousands of students are affected. For this reason it is important that there be a basic standard.

I heard one hon. member say this afternoon that students should be close to their parents while attending school and I agree with that statement. That is an added reason for making provision in this field. Again I emphasize that there are thousands of students who should be close to their parents while receiving their education. A basic standard is needed.

I cannot agree with the suggestion concerning equalization which one hon. member advanced. I feel, however, there should be at least the basic standard so students do not lose out through transferring from one community to another. This resolution could well precipitate thinking at all levels of government. I see no difference of opinion on this subject among the parties represented in this house or among levels of government across the land.

Someone referred to Quebec a few moments ago. To me this is an outstanding example. I am thinking of a student who comes from a western province to attend university in Quebec. He was not qualified to enter university in a western province because he lacked certain marks in the French language, but in Quebec with a different standard he could attend university and complete his education. That illustration also serves to emphasize my contention that we must arrive at a basic standard of education for Canadian students regardless of financial or geographic differences.

Some hon. Members: Six o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should find out whether the house leader feels that the government is resolute enough to go on with the supplementary estimates?

Mr. Churchill: We are willing to face up to any situation. The supplementary estimates will be taken up tomorrow, commencing with those of the department of northern affairs.

Mr. Pickersgill: I suggest to the house leader that more progress would be made if he could somewhat restrain his own followers from taking so much time in debate.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.