

specifically to the Federal Government will be given at that conference.

However, while details can be decided only after discussion with the provinces on this matter within their jurisdiction, there are three general points which I wish to make clear now.

First, the Federal Government is fully prepared to contribute to university financing in a way which, in combination with appropriate provincial action, will enable all parts of the country to meet university needs. Whether the specific proposals put to us by the Association are the best way to do this, or whether they can be modified or improved, has to be discussed with provinces.

Secondly, the large-scale use of federal tax money for university financing is sound only if it serves the national purposes which are the concern of the Federal Government. The way this can best be assured is a matter that must be discussed with the provinces. It will require planning, specialization and co-ordination, by agreement between the provinces and universities, so that the university structure will develop in a way that most strengthens the nation. In this, as in other uses of public funds, the Federal Government must discharge its responsibility to use federal resources in ways that will promote economic growth, full employment and equality of opportunity for all Canadians.

STUDENT AID

The third basic point relates to student aid. My colleagues and I would not feel justified in making large federal expenditures on the universities if some able young Canadians were shut off from the benefits of university education because of financial considerations. Adequate measures of student aid are an indispensable part of our approach to university assistance.

The Government therefore welcomes the suggestions about student aid made by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. They are of the same general nature as the programme for scholarship-bursaries which I have put forward. I hope that at the federal-provincial conference in the near future we can work out this programme in detail with the provinces and universities, so that it will be operative for students entering university next year.

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HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR ESKIMOS

Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, recently announced a major new housing programme for Canada's Eskimos, based on a detailed survey of housing in Arctic communities and an examination of solutions over the last two years, which, Mr. Laing said, revealed serious inadequacies, overcrowding and substandard conditions.

During the next four years, 1,600 houses will be built at a cost of \$12 million. There will be a choice of one, two and three bedroom designs to accommodate families of various sizes, and the houses will be available at rentals that will include basic furnishings, fuel for heating, electricity, water, sewage and garbage services.

"No Eskimo family" Mr. Laing said, "will be denied adequate shelter because of lack of income. The actual rent to be paid by each family will be determined by its ability to pay, with the difference being absorbed by the Government".

"The Eskimo birth rate" Mr. Laing said, "is rising rapidly and the increase in the size of families has greatly augmented the need for larger houses. The Eskimo population is expected to double within 20 years, if the present rate of increase continues".

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The new construction programme, which will begin in all communities on Baffin Island next summer, will be extended through the Arctic during the next three years. To ensure the maximum participation of the people concerned, management will, whenever possible, be co-ordinated through local community organizations. "We anticipate that some modifications and changes in these plans will be needed when the programme reaches the Mackenzie", Mr. Laing said. "These will be worked out in collaboration with the territorial government and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to suit subarctic conditions and to ensure that the programme will accommodate the needs of the Indians and the Métis living in the Mackenzie area.

The Minister expressed the conviction that the provision of adequate housing was essential if the Eskimos, Indians, Métis and others were to participate fully in Canadian life. The new programme is intended to provide the shelter and the services needed for health, human dignity and progress particularly for those people of the Arctic who, at this stage of their development, cannot afford to pay the full costs.