

the question of priorities, and to Mr. Roblin's suggestion to the Prime Minister that there be a dominion-provincial conference to discuss priorities—because they must be discussed. I am saying here only what I have said on other platforms in recent months. We are told we are going to have a pension scheme. We do not really know what it is going to be. I understand we are waiting for a French translation of the White Paper, and as a result it will not be tabled until next week, although we have been promised it week by week. We still do not know what it contains. All we do know is that the scheme will drain off \$700 million or \$800 million a year from the private sector into the public sector. That is a lot of money.

Then we have the medicare plan. I have very great respect for my former colleagues, the members of the Royal Commission on Health Services, but I shudder a little when I read their report to the effect that we can afford to divert, again from the private sector to the public sector—and this is the important thing—\$2.4 billion in the federal field alone as of 1971. It is implicit, of course, that the same amount would have to be diverted in the provincial field.

There are also the requirements of education. I am not to be bound by these figures because I did not do any special research on this matter before coming here this afternoon, but, as I recall, the Canadian Universities Foundation suggests that the capital requirements of Canadian universities over the next five, six or seven years amount to something of the order of \$700 million or \$800 million. I know, honourable senators, that every advocate has a tendency to exaggerate—that is what advocates are for—so the amount of money required may not be that great—perhaps it is only \$500 million or \$600 million. However, I want to underline what Mr. Roblin said. We can be sure everyone wants more pensions, everyone wants to avoid paying the doctors—although personally I think that paying the doctors is the lowest priority we have in this country—and everyone wants their children to have a better education. All I say is, once you look at these figures you realize we had better stop running into this thing in an unconsidered and an untidy way, and we had better sit down with the provinces and discuss priorities and where the money is to come from.

In that connection, the acting Prime Minister was quoted in the *Globe and Mail*—I do not read the publications of the other place—when he was asked whether the Government intended to give consideration to Mr. Roblin's request for a dominion-provincial conference on priorities. Here I will take the risk of paraphrasing his reply, although I have the

quotation. He was quoted as saying in effect, "If Mr. Roblin is suggesting that a conference on priorities will result in a postponement of the Canada Pension Plan, then I say that that is not Government policy."

Honourable senators, this is the kind of arrogance which has led us into great difficulty in the past: All we have to do is take a narrow view, say we made a promise here and a promise there; we do not relate them, we do not add them up, we go through with one and so we have to go through with the other. No matter what the Minister of Trade and Commerce does or what the Minister of Finance does, we will be in great difficulty in this country, because we will become completely noncompetitive not only in the foreign field but in the domestic field also.

I could go on, but I am not going to make my main speech on this subject this afternoon. I just want to touch on those matters which the honourable Leader of the Government touched on. I apologize for interrupting him, although there was a matter he said he would deal with when he came to it, but in my opinion he has not dealt with it, so I propose to take a moment or two to deal with it. What I am interested in is item L10 in schedule C. It is headed, "Loans, Investments and Advances: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation: Loans to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the purposes of capital expenditures subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the Governor in Council, \$14,250,000."

I had occasion to mention that earlier in this session. I just touched on it then, but I wish to deal with it a little more fully now. This is a subterfuge to conceal, to reduce budgetary deficits. Here is a crown corporation. It is not as though we are lending money to Polymer or Eldorado. It is a crown corporation which requires \$80 million to \$85 million a year to balance its budget. It requires it from the people of Canada—and the Minister of Finance introduces an item to lend it \$14,250,000 for capital expenditures.

That was the policy of the St. Laurent Government. When the Diefenbaker Government came into power, after about a year that Government wrote off all these advances, took them as budgetary items, and from there on all the capital expenditures of the C.B.C. were taken as budgetary items. They were spent. Everyone knew there was going to be no return on them other than the cultural return, which I have always found difficult to put on a balance sheet.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** It is like good will.