

The Address—Mr. Arsenault

I should like to have it on the record that these promises are unfulfilled and have been practically ignored by the government. There is another matter that has been ignored which I would have liked to say more about but will merely mention in passing. I refer to the construction of a naval barracks. On three or four different occasions it has been promised on the floor of the house that a naval barracks would be constructed and also an armoury, but there is no sign of either so far. Nevertheless it was announced today that the government is going to spend hundreds of millions to build them in Europe. The naval barracks and the armoury could be built for \$1 million even at the present time, and why should we not have them?

Then I should also like to mention the matter of the railway bridge across the Hillsborough river from Charlottetown to Southport. It provided a connection with the railway line running to Murray Harbour. I understand it is the intention of the Canadian National Railways to rip up this forty or fifty miles of track, ship the rails to some other place, and do away with the railway altogether. I cannot say how true that is but that report is now in circulation. The bridge was condemned and nobody seems to know who owns it, who is going to repair it or when it is going to be repaired. I have a question on the order paper with respect to this matter but it has not been answered yet.

I also intended to deal with the dairy situation. I have not mentioned the matter previously because I have been waiting since the 5th of November for an answer to a question on the order paper. When it comes through I will take the opportunity then to speak on the subject. I should like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me extra time.

(Translation):

Mr. Bona Arsenault (Bonaventure): Mr. Speaker, the recommendations of the report of the Massey commission, particularly those concerning assistance to the Canadian universities, have recently been the subject of violent attacks both in this house and in certain other places. Some of those denunciations are nothing but the most illogical kind of electoral propaganda and boil down to this: It is from Ottawa; therefore it is bad.

Some other criticisms however seem to have been offered in good faith; they are constructive. Those deserve our attention in order, at least, to strip them of the fallacies they contain or of the not easily eradicated prejudices with which they are tainted.

Section 93 of the Canadian constitution grants the provinces exclusive rights in the matter of education. There seem to be no

[Mr. McLure.]

differences of opinion on this matter. The Prime Minister of this country (Mr. St. Laurent) recognizes it, the Liberal members here admit it and the report of the Massey commission states it in black and white.

Why then are some people seeking, in certain quarters, deliberately to deceive the people of this country, especially the people of Quebec, by asserting wrongly that the federal government is trying to meddle with education, which comes under the sole jurisdiction of the provinces?

Why are they trying to make people believe that the present federal government is a hoarder, a centralizer, robbing the provinces of their rights, that the government is extending its jurisdiction to education in this country?

Finally, why is it that in certain quarters they are crying out that, in so far as assistance to Canadian universities is concerned, the Massey commission is advocating, in its report, an encroachment upon provincial rights?

The Prime Minister of Canada himself, on June 19 last, when he introduced the Massey report, said in this house, and I quote from page 4278 of *Hansard*:

In making this announcement, I feel I should emphasize that the federal action is intended to provide a necessary supplement to the assistance to universities already made available by the provincial governments, and it is our earnest hope that no provincial authorities will regard this federal contribution as in any way replacing their own obligations to the institutions they have been supporting in the past.

The Prime Minister ended his statement with these words:

I might add that in making these recommendations to parliament it is intended to avoid any possible suggestion that we are interfering in any way with the policies respecting education in the respective provinces. It is for that reason we wish the Minister of Finance to have the power to consult with and get assistance from the conference of Canadian universities for the purpose of drafting regulations that will provide for the allocation of this grant in proportion to the population of each province, and within each province in proportion to the number of enrolments of students of university rank in the institutions. I am sure there can be no suggestion . . .

This was the Prime Minister's conclusion. . . . that in doing this there will be any interference with the absolute autonomy of the provinces and the provincial institutions in the field of higher education.

And was it not the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Drew) in this house who, speaking after the Prime Minister on June 19 last, used the following words: