

*Post-secondary education*

the table as they did in Saskatoon, and collectively come up with a national strategy for post-secondary education.

The reality, of course, is that while education is a provincial responsibility, 70 per cent of all the funds which support that education in Canada come from the federal Government. Why should it not then be at the table when national education policy is discussed? Why should teachers and students and college administrators not be at the table when national post-secondary education is discussed? That is what we are talking about here today.

I think that it is all the more necessary today that we involve business and industry in that dialogue. More and more there is a necessity to increase the association between the world of work and the world of learning. Never before was that linkage so important. As we move into the information society, it is extremely important that we have the people who are giving the jobs and the people who are doing the teaching talking together about what kind of education we need to do the jobs which are going to be available. That is what CMA is talking about. That is what the Canadian Advanced Technology Association had a conference about in Toronto recently. It called for a national education strategy and a closer dialogue between the world of work and the world of learning.

Businessmen are realizing that if they are going to have employees, they want them well educated, or we will not be able to compete. We talk about free trade, tax reform and supporting high technology. But if we do not have a labour force that is educated, not just once but continuously throughout the life of the labourer, then we will not have a competitive society. Thus the linkage between the world of work and the world of learning is far more important today than it ever was before. That is what Canada has to wake up to. That is what Canada has to do something about.

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What we are saying is that all of those groups should come together. The people who are doing the hiring and the teaching, the students, the teachers, the administrators and the two levels of Government should come together. Why can they not? They did it in Saskatoon. They came together for three days. Is three days all we get? How long do we talk about economic policy? How long do we talk about industrial policy? What do we get for education? Three days. Is that what this nation will contribute to the discussion on education? If we can come together for three days, why can we not come together for three months, three years or 30 years? It is possible. That is what we are asking. That is what we are saying has to happen.

It should not stop in Saskatoon. The spirit of Saskatoon has to be kept alive. I wish to point out to my colleagues that we have advisory councils in Canada on the following topics. We have a National Advisory Council on Health. We have a National Advisory Council on Welfare. We have a National Advisory Council on Economics. We have a National Advisory

Council on Small Business. We have a National Advisory Council on Mining. I could go on. The list is interminable.

Recently, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) set up his own National Advisory Council on Science and Technology. I give him full marks for that. He is a man of vision. That is something that should be done. He should call those people together. They should tell him what the policy should be in terms of science and technology. But how can one talk about a national policy on science and technology without talking about a national policy on education? How could it be done? It cannot be done. One of the essential things people are saying is that what we have to give attention to in Canada today is the teaching of science and technology. That is an essential ingredient that we have to include and give emphasis and priority to in the national curriculum. How can there be a National Advisory Council on Science and Technology, recognizing the importance of that, and there not be a national advisory council on education? It is unthinkable.

Is education any less important than mining, small business, women, economics or industrial strategy? Is it any less important than those matters? If we have national advisory councils without in any way injuring or detracting from provincial jurisdiction, why can we not have a national advisory council on post-secondary education? I do not understand that. It seems to me that that is of paramount importance.

The OECD said this to Canada. It said that the lack of educational policies for the future is striking. It pointed out that there is a need to define goals for education to fit a vision of national interest. There is an array of exceptionally active programs derived from no explicitly stated over-all national conception of the country's interests. Decisions have to be taken now concerning the destination of the Canadian school system within an ordered view of the Canadian nation.

In effect, the OECD is saying to Canada, "Get your act together. If you are going to be one of the top seven, if you are going to compete with Japan, Korea, the United States and West Germany, get your act together and do something about it". That is what this Bill calls for. It simply calls for a dialogue. It is not a threatening Bill. It does not involve child abuse or environmental deterioration. It does not deal in any way with heinous crimes. It calls for a national advisory council on post-secondary education. It does not say, "We will take over the systems". It does not say, "We will throw out the provinces". It does not say, "We will fire the Ministers of Education". It simply says, "We want to give some advice". We are not talking about a massive bureaucracy that will suddenly take over policy.

The Bill calls for a 16-member committee made up of the two levels of Government that would advise both levels of Government and that would encourage research and study education questions in Canada. None of these issues are threatening. The 500 or 600 people who came together in Saskatoon recently very clearly said, "Yes, that is a good idea.