

controlling it of course, that private enterprise which looks after the development of our national culture.

With the great majority of our Canadian universities, I am glad of the government's decision to recommend to parliament, at this session, that the annual federal grants to the universities be doubled. Coming as I do from an English province and being of the French minority, I realize that such a frank and courageous decision on the part of our government will have important repercussions on the future of our youth and on the development of our national life.

We find, in my constituency, the University of the Sacred Heart, under the direction of the Eudist fathers. No one will ever be able to assess what Acadia, what New Brunswick, and what my constituency of Gloucester owe to these educators who, for more than half a century, have devoted their lives and energies to our young people, without asking anything in return. We recognize that the rapid growth of our country requires a similar development of our universities and we approve without any reservation the financial participation of the state as long as the federal government does not intend to interfere in the field of education, which belongs to the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces, and as long as the central government does not threaten the freedom of our universities.

Our institutions of higher learning, such as the Sacred Heart university which I mentioned a moment ago, need the financial help of the government to continue to dispense to our young people the knowledge which will prepare them to take charge of the development of the natural resources of our country.

As long as the federal subsidies to universities continue to be paid unconditionally, as long as the central government makes no attempt to intervene in the administration or the management of these universities, we who are from provinces with French-speaking minorities will rejoice in this financial assistance which constitutes another means of safeguarding our cultural autonomy. Along with our Prime Minister, we are convinced that these proposals will help fill a gap in the national life of this country and help solve the critical difficulties now being felt by Canadian institutions of higher learning.

Our government is not content to increase this help given to our institutions of higher learning. It recognizes the increased demands brought about by our national evolution. It therefore proposes to revise once more and to increase subsidies and subventions to provincial governments to assist them in providing technical and vocational training for our young people. May I point out one

of the problems facing our municipalities, the seriousness of which is constantly increasing from year to year. In my constituency of Gloucester, for instance, the population of 60,000 inhabitants has to provide primary education to some 15,000 children. The high cost of building and maintaining our schools, as well as teachers' salaries require direct taxation, far beyond the taxpayers' ability to pay. It must be recognized however that this matter is exclusively of provincial jurisdiction and that it would not be logical to ask federal authorities to intervene in the settlement of our problems of primary and secondary education. This should be dealt with exclusively by our provincial legislatures, and it is up to the municipalities to insist upon the distribution by the provincial governments of a larger share of the subsidies granted the provinces by the federal government under the federal-provincial tax agreements.

We shall also be called upon to deal with some amendments to the federal program of subsidies to municipalities. We hope that the study of the suggested amendments will help us to lighten the already too heavy burden borne by municipalities in providing the additional services made necessary by our economic expansion and our growing population.

(Text):

Before resuming my seat I want to say a word about the royal commission on Canada's economic prospects. We have confidence that the report of the Gordon commission, which is expected to be made public within the next few days, will deal—in a most encouraging manner, we hope—with problems affecting the provinces of the Atlantic coast. The day has come when we of the maritime provinces must desist from this attitude of utter discouragement which has been so prevalent amongst ourselves for the last two or three decades. Let us do away with the expression of depressed or "have not" provinces for which we ourselves, residents of the maritimes, may have been responsible and had to bear the consequences. We realize that the maritime provinces may not have shared equally in the general economic upswing which has been maintained so vigorously throughout the last few years. We feel that our geographical position is creating transportation problems, but we are confident that these problems can be solved. We have faith in the future of our country and faith in the future of our own maritime provinces.

Our new attitude of self-reliance must be a realistic indication of our determination to share in this period of unequaled prosperity