

House of Commons

creep before walking in this type of program. Perhaps as it develops and proves itself we could extend the classifications for interns to many other fields.

What is the purpose of the House of Commons internship program which I have recommended in this resolution? First of all, it is to equip outstanding political scientists with an M.A. degree, graduates of law schools and journalists with a B.A. degree with a better understanding of our national legislative process, politics, and public affairs. Just as a medical student serves an internship to better equip himself, this program would make it possible for a political science student, lawyer or journalist to do likewise.

• (6:20 p.m.)

The participants would be brought to Ottawa for six to nine months of full-time work with a member of parliament and would be paid a fair living wage. It is suggested that they choose the member with whom they wish to work. I can see no objection to an intern who has worked for say four months with one member of parliament changing to another should he wish to do so.

The program would be of great benefit to the students as well as to the members. It is intended to bring young political scientists, lawyers and journalists into close contact with the day-to-day work of the House of Commons so that they can learn at first hand how the legislative process actually works. The fellowships will help bring light to the teaching processes in the field of political science once the students return to their outside studies. A student of journalism would be much better qualified after a period spent here working with a member of parliament and a term in the press gallery. The same would be true in the case of a law student.

I suggest that when an intern arrives he should be allowed a brief orientation period spent in interviews with key people in the legislative process, visiting various departments of government, spending a short period in the press gallery and so on. Afterwards he would settle down to working directly with a member of parliament, briefing him on major bills, reading and digesting the many briefs which are directed to his office, and similar tasks.

There is no end to the amount of help he could be. On the other side of the picture, the intern himself would be much better qualified for his own profession when he returned to

his field of work outside parliament. Again, I am sure many of these people entertain the idea in the back of their minds that some day they may themselves run for office as members of this house. If they did and if they were elected, I am sure they would be better equipped for their duties after having spent a period working here as I have suggested.

Such a program would cost money, of course. How would these funds be raised? My first suggestion is that we might set up a centennial fund. Suppose interns were paid on the basis of \$4,500 a year. If we set up a fund of \$1 million at an interest rate of six per cent we could make provision for roughly 13 interns to begin with. Another way of raising funds would be to get one of the philanthropic foundations, possibly the Ford Foundation, to match a government grant made for this purpose. A program of the kind I have described has operated in the United States Congress since 1953 and I am glad to say it has gained greatly in stature since it was first begun. This is how the United States Congress got the money to carry on their program.

For the first several years of its operation the Congressional Fellowship Program was financed by the Edgar Stern Family Fund of New Orleans. In 1957-58, the program was financed by both the Stern Family Fund and the Ford Foundation. Beginning in 1958 the program was financed by the Ford Foundation as well as other foundations such as the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Foundation, the New York Times Foundation, the Shinner Foundation, the Poynter Fund, the Revlon Foundation, and the Helen Dwight Reid Foundation. So there is no problem about financing this program in the United States, and I am sure we could do the same here without any trouble.

How would interns be selected? I suggest they should be selected as a result of a nationwide competition. The recommended age group would be from 21 to 35 and the criteria for selection should be superior training, practical experience and professional competence. The selection committee might be made up of two Conservatives, two Liberals, one N.D.P. representative, one Social Credit representative, two political scientists, two lawyers and two journalists. This group would select suitable candidates. Applications would be received in December and the selection made not later than March 31. Those chosen would begin their internship on September 1.

[Mr. Hales.]