

Ontario to advise and make recommendations in connection with the problem of the expanding demands upon the universities. I was a member of that committee for some four and a half years, until I resigned last year, but in that time, in addition to York, five other new universities have opened—Brock, Trent, Lakehead, Laurentian, and Guelph—making a total now of 15 universities in Ontario. In the same time, all the older universities have greatly expanded.

The student population has risen from approximately 35,871 in 1961-62 to more than 60,000 this year, and the annual operating grants by the provincial government rose from \$19 million in 1961-62 to \$81 million, or a four-fold increase in that same period. In addition to the operating grants, the Province of Ontario has set up a Crown corporation called the Ontario Universities Capital Aid Corporation. In the current fiscal year 1966-67 that corporation has allocated the sum of \$150 million for advances to the universities on capital account for the erection of buildings.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Is that for loans?

Hon. Mr. Leonard: That is for loans. However, the loans are repaid both as to principal and interest by the operating grants of the Province of Ontario, because naturally the universities are operating at a deficit.

I pay tribute to the government of the Province of Ontario for the way in which it has dealt with that problem, by its good timing, good planning, efficient operation, and for the generosity of its treatment of the universities. Up to the present there has been a place in Ontario universities for every qualified applicant; however, when one looks to the future the outlook is still formidable, because we are moving into a stage of even greater acceleration of expansion.

The best information on what we may face is contained in what is known as the Bladen Report. The Bladen Commission was so named after Dean Bladen who was Chairman of a commission that was formed by the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada. That report is dated June 1965.

The forecast in the report is that, compared with the student enrolment today of 234,000, it is expected that in 1970-71 it will reach 340,000, and by 1975-76 it will reach 460,000, and all indications are that these forecasts are conservative.

Total university capital and financial requirements, which for 1966-67 are of the order

of \$750 million for the whole of Canada, and are expected to be \$1,314,000,000 by 1970-71 and \$2,032,000,000 by 1975-76.

At page 57, the Bladen Report states that this increase could be frightening, were it not related to the growth in our gross national product.

To take care of these substantial sums, the Bladen Commission made certain specific recommendations. It particularly recommended greatly increased grants from the present level by the federal Government. It also recognized that there would have to be increased provincial support, and indeed increased private and corporate support would also be necessary if the universities were to meet the demands upon them. It recommended no increase in student fees, but that such fees be continued at about the present level. Since the Bladen Report was issued in June 1965, it has been the subject of study by universities, by governments and other interested bodies throughout Canada.

The latest development in this field has been the meeting of the federal and provincial governments, held in October of this year. In his statement to that conference, the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Pearson, stated:

Today among Canadians in the age group 18 to 24, one in ten is a full time student at university; in ten years time the ratio is expected to be almost one in five.

He said further:

Moreover, if there is to be, as we all desire equality of opportunity of Canadian youth, there must be increasing funds for student aid.

The proposal of the federal Government at this conference took the form of a radical departure from the method that had been used by the federal Government up until now for assistance to the provinces in the field of education. Hitherto, so far as the universities are concerned, ever since the Massey Commission Report the federal grant had been on a per capita basis, commencing with 50 cents per head of population. Immediately following the Massey Report, and advancing in stages until now, the federal grant has increased to \$5 per capita. It is based on the population of the various provinces; the amount so determined is then allocated to the universities in the province on a per student basis, the distribution being made through the Canadian Association of Universities and Colleges.