

*Government Organization*

of the statistical work in respect of education in Canada at the present time. However, the more or less direct spending of the federal government amounts to better than \$350 million.

It is only an academic question whether the federal government should be involved in education. When you are spending \$350 million you are involved. As I said earlier, it would have seemed more sensible to me to bring these functions together under one office, but they have chosen not to do that.

● (8:00 p.m.)

At this point I want to mention briefly the constitutional question of federal involvement in the field of education, and that involvement is in fact taking place and is an aspect of this constitutional question. We are often reminded that section 93 of the B.N.A. Act gives the provinces exclusive control over education. Everybody else in the country has had a turn at interpreting the act and what the Fathers of Confederation probably meant when they drafted it. I should like to take my turn in doing so now.

It seems to me that the fathers of confederation when they referred to education were speaking of childhood education of the kind that existed in 1864 and 1865 which was provided by the village elementary school, and there were not too many of them at that time. I see no reference at all that would make me think they were thinking of universities and other forms of advanced education.

The word "exclusive" does not mean very much because the federal government does quite properly have educational functions. Under the constitution it was given responsibility for Indians and Eskimos, and it operates schools at the present time for Indian and Eskimo children. I have mentioned the Department of National Defence and its educational function.

Technical and vocational assistance which is now taking place is a form of assistance to schools which operate under provincial jurisdiction, admittedly, but this is taking place with the approval of the provinces. If they did not approve I am sure the federal government would withdraw; but there is no great resistance to this assistance which they are receiving.

The question regarding universities is not at all clear, but if you accept my interpretation—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Order, please, I regret to interrupt the hon. member,

but I should like to ask him whether his remarks can be related to the bill now before us, which in turn relates to the responsibilities of four new ministries.

**Mr. Prittie:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are dealing with a re-organization bill and it is our duty in the opposition to praise or criticize government action. If we criticize we should advocate alternative policies. It is quite in order to suggest what we think should have been included in the bill. Originally I suggested that an office of education should have been provided for under the department of manpower. Apparently one is to be established under the offices of the Secretary of State. I am merely pointing out that I think the government should have gone further in its re-organization of some of the duties which should have been allocated to such an office. Therefore my remarks do relate to government re-organization and the manner in which I think it should take place.

As I was saying, if you accept my interpretation of the definition of education which the Fathers of Confederation had in mind, then you will come to the conclusion that university education is not exclusively under provincial jurisdiction. In any case, with the apparent approval of the provinces the federal government is involved in this field as well. The federal government does carry on various functions in the field of education at the present time. I think an office of education should co-ordinate and plan the present involvement of the federal government, and that it should go one step further. At the present time in Canada there is a great lack of research in the field of education, although some is carried out in universities. Some provinces have separate research organizations and there is in existence the Canadian Council for Research Education, but most of our ideas in this field come from the United States. We are not doing our share, and I believe the office which is being established should give its attention to this particular field. Unless we have an office with the prestige and the funds which only the federal government can give, we are going to lag very far behind the United States and other countries. I should like to mention briefly that in the United States they have such an office of education.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member again, but I really believe he is going beyond the terms of this bill and that he is applying