

*The Address—Mr. Pearson*

organization and institutions of education in Quebec are considerably different from those in other provinces warrants, in our view, the continuation of special arrangements with Quebec in respect of those grants.

In considering the form of payments through the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the federal government feels that something additional should be included in the grants to universities in those provinces that take a higher proportion of out-of-province students. To give effect to this principle the grants will be paid in the form of a basic grant per capita of the population of each of the provinces concerned, supplemented by an amount per out-of-province student in each province equal to the average of the basic grant per student in all these provinces. I hope all hon. members understood that. These basic grants together with the supplementary grants will provide an average of \$5 per capita, but the distribution to universities will be higher in those provinces with a higher ratio of out-of-province students.

This arrangement, if approved by parliament, will increase the federal contribution in respect of universities in all provinces for the academic year 1966-67 by an estimated \$60 million to a total just under \$100 million.

It is the earnest hope of the government that this interim arrangement for federal grants to universities, together with the action which provincial governments will take in respect of the needs of universities in the academic year 1966-67, will constitute a constructive step forward in making a joint response to the need for adequate financing of higher education in Canada. It, of course, leaves to the provinces full responsibility for legislation in respect of university affairs.

Perhaps I should refer to one or two other subjects which were mentioned by the right hon. gentleman, though I am bound to say there are many matters contained in the Speech from the Throne with which I shall not be dealing at all—matters as important as those I have been considering today. These will be dealt with by the Ministers directly concerned with them.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) drew attention to the desirability of doing something at once about the situation with regard to capital punishment. I could not agree with him more. It is, I think, essential that a decision be taken by this parliament one way or another with the least possible delay so as to get out of the situation

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we are in now, where every case for commutation has to be considered bearing in mind that capital punishment may be abolished in a week or so. It does not make a problem which is agonizing in any event, any easier to deal with when one is dealing with it in these circumstances.

● (8:30 p.m.)

My right hon. friend said that while he was in office they had only commuted sentences when there was a recommendation for mercy from the judge or jury.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** No, that is a misunderstanding. I said we made it clear that any recommendation for mercy would assure a commutation, not that there would only be a commutation if a recommendation were made. If I made that statement, it is not correct.

**Mr. Pearson:** I secured the record on that point, and it shows there were 15 cases between December 1958 and March 1963, in all of which the death sentence was commuted by the previous administration, though neither the judge nor jury recommended mercy. In any event, I hope before many days have gone by the members of this house will have an opportunity to declare themselves, as members of the house, on this important problem, and settle it once and for all.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Pearson:** My right hon. friend also referred to the fact that we said very little in the Speech from the Throne about constitutional amendment, and that we seemed to have dropped the Fulton-Favreau formula. We have not dropped it, Mr. Speaker. We shall do our best to put it into effect if and when we get the agreement of all the provinces; but without that agreement it cannot be done. I wish very much it could be put into effect: I believe it is a good formula. I know my right hon. friend does not think it is a good formula. He has attacked it very vigorously—not immediately after it was adopted, but subsequent to that time.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** At all times.

**Mr. Pearson:** Well, I have got some interesting quotations on that point.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That's all right.

**Mr. Pearson:** It is very interesting to note that a former minister of justice who is now the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), and who unfortunately is not in his seat—and I regret having to refer to him when he is not here—has indicated on more than one occasion