

strongly recommended federal aid for higher education. Recognizing the grave crisis facing our institutions of higher learning the very first reaction of the federal government to the Report was the implementation of a system of financial assistance. Despite all the safeguards which were applied to prevent even the appearance of federal interference in a provincial field one province, after accepting the grants for a year on behalf of its universities, to our great disappointment decided that it could not continue to do so. But the universities of the other nine provinces are putting to good use the more than five and a quarter million dollars voted to them by Parliament this year.

The government still feels with respect to these grants that it is in the national interest to assist the universities to perform functions which are, as I said on June 19, 1951, in introducing the measure to Parliament, "quite essential to the country, and indeed to the proper administration of the government of the country". In making these grants, we believe we are recognizing an obligation to assist in paying for benefits the nation and the government are deriving from Canadian universities.

Besides this assistance to the universities, as you know other recommendations of the Massey Commission that have been acted upon to date include those referring to the National Gallery, the National Library, the Public Archives and the radio and television broadcasting. In the radio and television fields the government is trying to assure that these forces are developed in the national interest, that they contribute to greater unity and provide for the expression and growth of Canadian talent.

The recommendation of the Royal Commission which I know is of particular interest to this audience is the one which refers to the establishment of a Canada Council. I should like to acknowledge at this point the keen interest that has been shown in this matter by organizations like yours and the helpful advice that has been given to my colleagues and myself. Although my colleagues and I have viewed this recommendation with favour, for a variety of reasons it has not yet been possible to create such a body. Nevertheless, I wish to assure you that we have been giving very active consideration to this subject particularly in recent weeks and I am hopeful that before too long we shall have something of a very positive nature to report.

The creation of such a body will be of great importance to Canada, both in assisting cultural development within our borders and maintaining our relations with cultural organizations abroad. We also hope that it will provide the machinery to facilitate even more extensive research in the humanities.

These are some of the contributions that the government is endeavouring to make to assist in the development of a Canadian way of life. However, I am sure you will all agree that a cultural