

*Loans to Students*

know what they want and are willing to fight for it". But money itself will not solve all the problems of education. I have some personal views and opinions on education, and I must stress that these opinions are my own. My feeling is that our educational system is outmoded, archaic and ineffectual. I feel it has failed to keep in step with the general advance in technology and the times.

There are several factors in our educational system which I criticize. One is the failure of the educational system to recognize the influence of mass media communication on the maturing process of children. As our society has become more complex, more years have been added on to educational courses. At the same time, I observe that our children are maturing much faster. The result has been that our young people are ready for marriage at an earlier age, but for practical reasons their educational pursuits place obstacles in their path. As a result, we have a higher percentage of students marrying before they graduate, some of whom fail to complete their education for the reason of the added economic burdens after marriage. I think these scholarships and bursaries might do something to alleviate this position. Second, we must recognize the change in the moral behaviour of our young people in the teen age group. Some of this breakdown has to do with the educational system, and I do not need to elaborate on that aspect. First, I think the educational system has failed to offer the moral leadership that should be expected in our schools. In this respect the school curriculum has fallen behind in social adaptation.

Associated with the curriculum is the method of teaching. Here we have failed to keep up with technological progress. As one who carried on some mental testing programs during my university years, I found a close relationship between a child's mental age and his success in his grade, more so perhaps than between his physical age and success. Instead of placing students together on the basis of their chronological age, perhaps a grading on the basis of their mental age would be more suitable and enable a class to advance more evenly.

I think a great deal of research should be carried on into the capacities of children to absorb knowledge at the various ages, and a great deal of research must be carried on regarding the best methods of projecting that knowledge so that it is most easily absorbed. Closed circuit television, audio visual aids, etc., are essential. What will this mean?

A scientifically construed curriculum scientifically projected means the faster absorption of knowledge with a consequent shortening of the educational period. This revamping of the curriculum and methods of teaching should take place from the earliest grades.

At the university level basic facts must be recognized. Crowding of our universities does not allow us the luxury of allowing our university buildings to lie idle for several months of the year. The hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. Rynard) has already made out a concrete and well presented case for the need to utilize university facilities, buildings, etc., the whole year round.

The increase in bursaries, scholarships and loans should enable students to attend classes with the exception of only minimal holidays during the year. This should allow for the shortening of many professional and university courses, such as medicine, dentistry, and those courses which now take a substantial time out of a student's life.

At the same time, we must recognize that with the rapidly increasing university population it is becoming more and more difficult for these young people to find summer jobs. In keeping with my earlier plea, I say let us plan to allow our young people out of university sooner so that they can marry and take their place as more useful citizens in our society.

In conclusion, let me repeat some of my earlier observations. I welcome this measure and the other measures the federal government has undertaken to ease the strain of educational costs on the provinces. Coming back to my earlier thesis on the reallocation of jurisdiction, may I say this. If the strains of education tend to continue at crisis proportions within the provinces it may be wise for the provinces to ask the federal government to assume jurisdiction over university education. This is something which I think we should not ask for, but I think that if it is offered to us we should not shirk our responsibility towards it. I say this because I think there is a great deal to be said for more uniformity of education, which would take place at the federal level. Especially in the technical and professional fields many provinces have been unable to offer training facilities. Taking over the higher education field would mean more equality of opportunity for students to gain entrance, because at the present time, especially in many professional colleges, preference is given to the local students. There would be more uniformity in training across Canada, and larger institutions