

*Interim Supply*

and later years in secondary school; second, a home to home exchange for the summer months for students who cannot take a whole school term. Registration and administrative arrangements would be handled by the centennial commission. Transportation would be provided by the federal government. Local arrangements for personal supervision, health and education would be made with the provinces. Parents would provide room, board and school necessities for the visiting student. Clothes and spending money would come from home. The exchange would be voluntary, open to all students within the selected grades, provided only that the student had passed his or her previous year's examination. The exchange would be massive, as I see it, geared to make a noticeable impact on Canadian life and its youth, with a target of 100,000 students in 1967 and a continuing program thereafter.

In detail, the idea is that parents of a student desiring to exchange would be hosts to another student of the same age, sex and school grade for one school term, while their child becomes the guest of the other home. The students, in short, would exchange homes. The foster parents would provide for the visiting student as they would for their own child. The friends of the home and absent student would form a circle into which the visiting student would easily fit. Such an exchange would be available to all, and would cost the student and his family nothing. For one school term, he or she would become a part of the life of the new family, town, school and province.

While the idea seems simple in its conception, there are real and practical difficulties to be worked out. Technical problems of educational standards, jurisdiction and registration on the one hand, and personal problems of environment, standards of living, religion and adaptability of both parents and children on the other, are the most apparent. But after giving it a good deal of thought I am convinced they can be overcome.

With regard to registration, parents or students desiring to exchange would make application to the central body on a prescribed application form which could and would be made up for use in a computing machine. The particulars of the child to be exchanged and his home circumstances, as well as province, religion and school the child wished to attend would be indicated on the application. Computers would match up the cards and provide applicants with names of matching families.

A period of time would be allowed in which direct correspondence would take place be-

tween families. When a suitable exchange was arranged, both applicants would notify the central agency. Except for the services provided, the arrangement would be a private one, with applicants accepting all responsibilities between themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I should now like to move to a consideration of the services which would be provided by the public. In the first place, the federal government would provide return transportation for the student, as well as one visit home at Christmas or Easter during the term. The provincial or territorial government would provide the educational facilities to the visiting student. They would provide the exchange of records and matching curriculum, as far as possible. The province would also provide supervisory services. I think for such supervisory services the best agencies available would be children's aid societies, or welfare agencies within the provinces. Each home would be visited in advance and reported upon by the children's aid society. It would be improper to ask these agencies to evaluate these homes, therefore my suggestion is that the only report which would be made in advance would designate the home as either suitable or unsuitable for exchange while the student is in the foster home, the agency would make visits at regular intervals to see that both student and foster parents were satisfied with the arrangements. A completely homesick or unsatisfied child could return home without prejudicing the other student. No liability would devolve on the welfare agency while acting in good faith in its duties.

Mr. Chairman, I have given some serious thought to the question of what type of student would qualify for such an exchange. When the original centennial commission was set up some years ago a proposal somewhat similar to this was made, and in the general outline there was similarity. The report of that commission suggested that children of the ages from 15 years to 17 years would be eligible for exchange. I have suggested, however, that students in the third and fourth years of secondary school who have completed their previous year's examinations and were in good standing would be eligible to partake in such an exchange. The question of age is one of some difficulty. I felt that in the first or second year of high school many students would be too young to make such an exchange and properly fit into their new homes.

Mr. Chairman, I did mention a second type of exchange. The one I have just outlined is