



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Partial text of an address given by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. A.D.P. Heeney, at the United College Commencement, Winnipeg, on November 9, 1951.

...I propose to invite your attention for a few minutes to the relationship of Canadian Universities and Colleges to the Public Service of our country. And, because I realize that many of you before me will be giving to the problem of your post graduate careers that anxious thought for which undergraduates are so infrequently given credit, I shall take advantage of the opportunity to put before you certain principal features of the professional service of the state - a service, I admit, which may involve plenty of hard work without great material recompense - but a service too, which is capable of unique satisfactions and rewards.

In the recent Report of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, the Commissioners drew attention to the importance of the Universities as a source of recruits for the Public Service. They pointed out that, today, university qualifications are required for more and more posts, that there were already some 8,000 graduates of Canadian universities in the federal service. My own Department of External Affairs, for example - by no means one of the largest of the Federal government departments - employs something between 250 and 300 University graduates. Other departments of government have similar and greater requirements for University trained men and women in many branches. And, as our national services expand to meet new demands, this requirement will increase year by year.

It used to be that the Civil Service was regarded by many, if not most Canadians, as a refuge for the misfits and the indolent - a haven to be come to by party patronage - a safe billet for those who had neither the brains nor the ambition to make their own way. Again, there is the latter-day conception of some - the Civil Servant as the "bureaucrat", the soulless state functionary whose pleasure it is to interfere with the liberty of the individual in the administration of the multifarious orders and regulations of a central government - a government determined apparently to plan every department of our lives from the cradle to the grave.

Whatever basis in fact these views may have once possessed, both are now far from the truth. Indeed, I believe that, today, the general level of industry, intelligence and esprit de corps in the Civil Service of Canada is one in which Canadians can have reasonable confidence and even some pride.

And it is, I think, quite essential that the standards of our national Public Service should be high - just as high as we can make them, in capacity and in character. For, in recent years, the importance to the nation of the efficient operation of