

having to do with the involvement of the federal government in education. At that time members of this house were reminded, I think by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade) that the hon. member for St. John's West ought to look at the British North America Act, sections 92 and 93, to see what they said concerning education. Of course I and the hon. member for St. John's West have always been aware what those two sections of the B.N.A. act said with reference to education. I submit that that is not the whole story, and that the federal government is involved, and quite properly involved, in certain aspects of education. Section 91 of the act gives the federal government responsibility for the Indians of Canada, and in carrying out that responsibility the government has established a system of Indian education in this country. That is a system of considerable size because I notice that the budget for Indian education in the year 1966-67 is \$38 million.

Defence, of course, is also a federal responsibility, and under this heading a considerable amount of money is spent. There are service colleges for the training of officers. There are the ordinary elementary and secondary schools which the Department of National Defence operates in Canada and overseas for the children of men in the armed forces. I am afraid that I could not tell you what the figure is, because the amount spent for this purpose is not shown separately in the estimates.

The external aid office of the Department of External Affairs is also involved in giving educational assistance to developing countries in other continents. These are three activities with respect to education in which the federal government is quite properly involved, and which do not infringe upon the rights of the provinces in any way.

Apart from this the federal government has become concerned in recent years with other aspects of education. If hon. members look again at the estimates for 1966-67 they will see an amount of \$186 million to be voted under the terms of the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act. As we all know these are moneys to assist in the building of technical and vocational schools in the provinces and, as I say, the amount of money there involved is \$186 million.

Recently the Prime Minister announced an increase in aid to universities. The amount to be spent by the federal government, this year, for that purpose will be \$100 million.

*Proposed Federal Office of Education*

Adding up all the figures I have quoted, Mr. Speaker, you will see that they amount to somewhere around \$240 million. This amount of money is quite apart from research grants made by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and other federal government departments.

One can still look at the B.N.A. Act and argue that the federal government has no right in the field of higher education. Indeed the province of Quebec still takes that attitude. Quebec has received aid for its universities in a manner different from the other provinces, but I suggest that in the other provinces there is no real argument against this. Those other provinces quite willingly accept the money for technical and vocational schools, and quite willingly accept the money for their universities. More and more people in this country look upon section 92 as referring to elementary and secondary education which will remain within the jurisdiction of the provinces, but they look upon the whole field of higher education as something which the federal government is quite properly concerned with.

Mr. Speaker, I have already said that the federal government is operating schools and spending large amounts of money on education. However, these educational activities of the federal government are rather dispersed, and handled by quite a number of departments. The Department of Labour formerly handled the technical and vocational grants, which are now to be handled by the new Department of Manpower and Immigration. As I have mentioned, the Indian affairs branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is involved in operating a whole educational system on its own. The Department of National Defence has a division which is concerned with education. The Department of Finance comes into the picture so far as the Canada student loans plan is concerned, and the Department of External Affairs through the external aid provisions is also involved with education.

I suggest that we ought to create a federal government agency—and I am not too concerned by what name it goes, whether you call it the federal office of education or the federal secretariat of education—into which all educational functions of the federal government will be brought, so that there may be some coherence to the whole program.

In addition to performing the functions which I have mentioned, of operating the