

and 90 per cent of the universities in Canada will have to take the number of young people who come forward with our standards of admission and we will have to take them in.

Senator CRERAR: If you raised your standards would you weed some of them out?

Dr. STEWART: Yes. But this is a problem. I think the answer to that is that in terms of the needs of this country for young people with university education this would be a fatal national policy to adopt. This is my own view.

Senator CRERAR: Tell me this: I see criticism occasionally that students who matriculate to universities that after they get into university it is discovered that they are deficient even in such things as spelling. Would you say of your own knowledge if there is anything to that criticism?

Dr. STEWART: We have some students who cannot spell, Senator Crerar.

Senator CRERAR: Well, if they cannot spell are they deficient in other respects? Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I am not explaining my point very clearly. I think the natural desire of most parents is to secure a university education for their youngsters. There has been a definite decrease in home discipline, and a lot of these youngsters go on and look upon a university career as something in the nature of a lark, rather than the serious business of developing their own powers. My personal view is that it is highly desirable if that tendency exists—and I believe it does exist—that it should be kept in check. I know of no other way of doing it than by having the universities set higher standards and refuse to waste their time on students who are not serious in their purpose in coming to the university.

The CHAIRMAN: Who is going to be the judge?

Senator CRERAR: The universities have to be the judge of the standards. One of the difficulties is the modern ideas of education that have developed over the past 50 years—and can be traced to a certain influence, I think, in the United States,—which are detrimental to the true purpose of education.

Dr. STEWART: This is a very large issue, which I do not think I can deal with adequately. However, two points occur to me: first, in the west we have three Royal Commissions now sitting, one in British Columbia, one in Alberta and one in Manitoba, all engaged in the study of this problem at least from the schools' point of view. All I can say is that the students do not stay at the University of Alberta for a lark. We fail about 30 per cent in the first year. That is a disgrace, and should not be so, but they do not stay around university and waste their time.

Senator CRERAR: What about that 30 per cent, do they come back the next year?

Dr. STEWART: Not very many of them.

Senator CRERAR: They are weeded out in the first year?

Dr. STEWART: Yes.

Senator CRERAR: My point is, would it not be better to weed them out before they enter the university door?

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, gentlemen, time is going on and we are directing our consideration to the subject before us. Senator Turgeon, you have a question? I think we should confine our questioning to matters having to do with the brief before us. We have another witness to hear, and we want to give him as much time as possible.

Senator TURGEON: Mr. Chairman, my question has to do directly with the subject, and in particular with the suggestion made by Senator Lambert, with which I agree. It is true, the brief asks that the National Housing Act be amended to allow this additional expenditure. It is therefore true that only