

*The Address—Mr. Enns*

Thus, the individual rights of the people must be protected and enlarged in parliament and before the courts of law, as individuals and groups. Every Canadian has the right to be governed by laws passed only in parliament, and the concurrent right of appeal to a body of known composition and jurisdiction. I am wondering whether that civil servant recently dismissed from the Vancouver post office is enjoying the full rights of citizenship when he will be pursued but not brought to court.

In order that a national development policy and a strong democratic state may bring equitable and increased advantages to all, there must be a program of human betterment. I am looking with great anticipation to the development of the Canada Assistance Plan, the proposal to bring into line the various social security measures that have been developed as a patchwork quilt over the past number of years.

The various social assistance programs should some day be based on a comprehensive contributory system that covers the aged, the unemployed, the sick, and the injured or handicapped. It must be such a system that preserves the individual, the home, the volunteer groups and local government powers. Incentives must be built into such programs to encourage the individual to be a proud, participating member in a self-reliant society. There are still many gaps in our social security system and I hope to speak at greater length about these on another occasion.

I want to make reference to one group who are constantly left out in our deliberations on the improvement of human goals, namely the retired civil servants, the superannuates, and I join with the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell), and the other hon. members who have already raised concern about these superannuates who are living in retirement on fixed income despite the rising, inflationary cost of living, and who seem to have been forgotten by the government. I trust that some measures can be implemented during the session, by which this group of people will be considered and helped.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Enns:** I am encouraged by some measures that have been mentioned in the throne speech, and I wish to talk about education as one such measure. I welcome the emphasis given to education in the Speech from the Throne. I have read the Bladen commission report on the financing of higher education, a report which presents

some startling statistics indeed. It states that whereas we are dealing in millions of dollars today, we will be dealing in billions of dollars ten years from now. The reason for this is very simple. In 1950 about one in 12 primary school pupils reached first year university. By 1964 the proportion had risen to about one in six, and it is still rising. This is wonderful.

There is a general recognition of the importance of developing to the full the intellectual resources of our people. This recognition has been connected with a new concern for economic growth and a new assessment of the dependence of that growth on the supply of highly intelligent, highly trained and highly educated people. I must emphasize, however, as did the Bladen commission, that the purpose of all education is not merely the supply of productive instruments but the development of whole persons.

I share the view that in spite of increasing demands on the taxpayer who, after all, is the only revenue generating resource for all levels of government, that as a country Canada can afford this high cost, that it must afford the massive expenditures on education, because the alternates are more costly. If we leave people illiterate and improperly educated we are inviting an increase in other problems such as juvenile delinquency.

What does it cost to be unemployed? Can anyone give statistics for that in human values, in real values affecting our gross national product?

What does it cost to have insufficient skilled personnel to realize fully our country's potential? These are questions without specific answers, yet one shudders to think of the actual cost we might have to pay if we do not fulfil all our responsibilities in the field of education.

The costs of education are investments, I believe, and the greatest human investments our nation can make is in our youth, for here are our greatest dividends. Of course pensions are necessary, but these are usually paid to people on their retirement. Of course medicare and health plans are necessary. These are matters which are of benefit to all Canadians, but certainly not to the same extent as is education. Therefore I say again that the highest return will be on the investments we make now in the education of our youth. Therefore, in any scheme of priorities I would put education ahead of these other two matters.

The Bladen commission report states:

We believe that the people of Canada want this expansion. We doubt whether they, or their governments, have fully understood how much it will