

If there are technical aspects, tax-sharing questions, if the province of Quebec, for special reasons, wants to be solely responsible in certain fields, educational or otherwise, while the other nine provinces would rather surrender such a field of activity to the central government, I have no objection to it. All that would be needed is the necessary machinery.

As long as responsibilities are not faced and Canadians of good will are not given the opportunity to come face to face and write down a statement of practical and bicultural federalism, with the provision of a special status for Quebec, and as long as we keep on in this field of federal loans to students which seems to forecast a nation-wide system of scholarships, possibly a department of education, a cultural section in the Secretary of State department, I say that we are going backwards and that tensions, disagreements and misunderstandings are being heightened across Canada.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take my stand against the principle of this bill.

[English]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to take part in this debate on the student loans fund. I listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard). He canvassed an area in constitutional law which causes him and perhaps, the province of Quebec a good deal more concern than it causes the province of Nova Scotia.

• (4:30 p.m.)

I have the privilege of representing a constituency in which there is at least one institution of higher learning. Moreover, the province from which I come has always contributed in an outstanding way to the educational advancement of this country. I wish to say that the student loans fund finds favour in Nova Scotia, certainly in the constituency I represent. I have heard speakers say it favours the rich, not the poor. It was interesting to hear the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Pritt) mention priorities. As a member of the N.D.P. he should not scoff at priorities. Priorities and planning form one of the basic tenets of his party. One has to have priorities in certain areas of government and if ever there was an area in which we need a plan it is the area of education. This also applies to medicare.

Canada Student Loans Act

The one basic complaint I would make against the Canada student loans plan is that we may be putting the cart before the horse in that we are not providing the administrative equipment, the professors and buildings in advance. This also applies to medicare. The medical resources fund came before us after the government said it was going to implement medicare. I think the government should provide the facilities and buildings before starting to fill them with students or patients, but generally this measure is a step in the right direction.

As Confucius said many years ago, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step, but this is certainly not a first step because the government has already taken the first plank from the Conservative platform in 1965, thus making my task of supporting this measure easier. It can now add to that plank which advocated student loans, which is a little different from its own plank of student scholarships. The government has adopted a per capita grant of \$5 instead of \$2 as we in the Conservative party advocated and has followed and continued the program of vocational education which we started and stimulated. If the government can now develop a few planks of its own, so much the better. Having built upon the foundation which this party laid when in office and having adopted our educational platform in 1965, the government and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp), are to be commended for their work in regard to the Canada student loans fund.

To give the lie to some of the discussion that has taken place in this chamber on the resolution stage and also today about how this legislation favours the rich and hurts the poor, I would like to quote the figures which the Minister of Finance gave on June 13, as recorded at page 6307 of *Hansard*, and the figures given in the 1965 Canada Year Book which sets out the total enrolment of university students in the year ended 1964. There will be a certain overlapping because I think the figures used by the minister covered the period to the end of March, 1966. There is not a complete basis for comparison but I think the figures give a certain indication.

In effect the figures support the purpose of this legislation. The province of Prince Edward Island is not renowned for its large professional or elite class. It is a largely rural, agricultural province. It is also a fairly political province at the present time, and maybe the people there need a little more education to help them solve some of their