

*The Address—Mr. Webster*

in Canadian universities. In terms of international relations this was a praiseworthy undertaking. In this regard the Secretary of State for External Affairs has been urged to establish a program of scholarships and fellowships for exchanges within the worldwide French cultural community, a proposal comparable in its conception to the successful commonwealth scholarship and fellowship plan. Centennial authorities are to be commended for considering a vast exchange of students among the colleges and universities within Canada as a worthy centennial project in 1967. At the same time the plan might very well be expanded to include the exchange of French teachers and professors between Quebec and the other provinces.

10. Extend family allowance payments to age 18 for students who remain in school or university.

11. Treat all university donations from private sources and corporations as deductible items for income tax purposes; and exempt universities from payment of federal sales tax in the same manner as hospitals.

12. Revise the provisions of the Income Tax Act as recommended by the Canadian universities foundation as follows:

(a) Increase from \$550 to \$1,000 the deduction for dependants who satisfy the conditions now required for existing tuition fee deduction.

(b) Exempt full-time students, who now qualify for tuition fee deduction, from the first \$2,000 of their earned income. In this way the government can provide a measure of relief from the present high cost of university training to both students and parents.

There are some of the decisions that might be made at once without a massive expenditure of money from the federal treasury. It is vital for us at this time to understand that what we face is not a simple crisis or emergency, but entry into a new era of development at all stages of education which requires the co-ordinated and steady support of all levels of government in a period of rapid technological change.

Our society has the resources to provide facilities for increased enrolment in secondary and higher education, but this government is not giving the leadership that is needed to accomplish this purpose. However, more and more Canadians are coming to realize that education in all its forms is an asset that is fundamental to our nation's well-being. To move forward into the scientific age with imagination and confidence, public authorities across this country need to take what President Claude Bissell of the

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University of Toronto calls "heroic measures" to meet the pressing demands of modern education.

In conclusion I wish to emphasize the latter point by quoting a passage from the report on higher education in Great Britain, issued in October, 1963, by the committee appointed by the British prime minister under the chairmanship of Lord Robbins:

Throughout our report we have assumed as an axiom that courses of higher education should be available for all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so.

We do not believe that modern societies can achieve their aims of economic growth and higher cultural standards without making the most of the talents of their citizens. This is obviously necessary if we are to compete with other highly developed countries in an era of rapid technological and social advance. But even if there were not the spur of international standards, it would still be true that to realize the aspirations of a modern community as regards both wealth and culture a fully educated population is necessary.

The good society desires equality of opportunity for its citizens to become not only good producers but also good men and women.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean-Eudes Dube (Restigouche-Madawaska):** Mr. Speaker, let me join with the hon. members who spoke before me to offer my sincere congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. They both proved equal to the task entrusted to them.

This afternoon, Mr. Speaker, I propose to point out the economic difficulties of northern New Brunswick and to offer some solutions.

Also, I should like to recall for a few moments the trip of the NATO parliamentarians and conclude with my personal impressions on national unity.

During the last year, Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada initiated several pieces of economic legislation intended to improve the standard of living in underdeveloped areas of eastern Canada and more particularly in the maritimes.

I only have to mention the three-year tax reduction for new industries in those designated areas; the \$500 bonus granted to the buyers of houses built during winter; the construction already under way of federal buildings and of many post offices; the \$100 million grant to the Atlantic region economic development board, out of which \$20 million have already been earmarked for the construction of a hydroelectric project at Mactaquac, on Saint John river, in New Brunswick.

Those very generous measures will be a great help, and they are already helping the economy in various areas.