

Government Organization

It will enable the government to do its planning in the round—so facilities and people will be available when programs requiring them are launched.

It will be concerned with the whole field of post-secondary training, including the emerging community colleges, the technological colleges.

Mr. Steele indicated there will be a place for bold, if careful, initiatives in dealing with the provinces.

"The problems facing all levels of government are so enormous that they can only be solved by working things out on a national basis and by providing opportunities on a national scale."

Mr. Steele acknowledges that education was assigned to the department as a deliberate decision to round out the functions of the ministry, which is shaping up as the department of cultural affairs. Other recently-established planning bodies, the science secretariat and the poverty-planning secretariat, have been set up within the prime minister's office.

But, the undersecretary urges, don't call it the department of education and cultural affairs. Call it social affairs or better, interior affairs.

The administrator now being sought—with a salary of up to \$20,000—should be, Mr. Steele said, "someone who knows the problems of education in Canada, somebody with a sensitivity for federal-provincial relations, and who can organize research," quite possibly a university administrator.

This is quite a large order if they want such a person.

"I hope this position will attract a lot of attention."

I am quite sure it will.

In the new planning section now are two full-time workers, Jean-Marc Hamel, a member of the department previously, and Christopher Gill, formerly on the staff of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the sponsor of the Bladen report.

The department has been heavily involved in an advisory capacity in planning for the June conference. Mr. Steele says he has no soundings yet on the provinces' preparations, but he hopes they will attend in a mood to deal imaginatively with the job at hand.

"We recognize that there is no area more regarded as a provincial prerogative. We'll keep that before us—while making very sure that in doing so we don't fall behind as a nation."

Mr. Bell (Carleton): One of the best speeches made today.

Mr. Prittie: As I said earlier there were some questions asked this afternoon of the Secretary of State on this subject. The questions were all ruled out of order by the chair. I asked the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) whether it was a fact that the subject of university grants had been transferred from his department to the Secretary of State and, after some consultation with the Secretary of State, he replied in the affirmative. I take it from that that the article substantially is

[Mr. Prittie.]

correct. I agree with the idea, but in my view it might have been better had such an office been established within the department of manpower. At the present time this is the department which is spending the greatest amount of money on education. In the estimates for 1966-67 there is an amount of \$186 million under the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act. It seemed to me that this would be the logical place for it. However, I am pleased there has been a recognition by the federal government of the need to establish such an office and that they have taken the first step.

In the re-organization bill which the government has presented to us I had hoped they would have established an office to administer all its activities in the field of education. Instead of that, according to the article in the *Citizen*, the new office will be only a co-ordinating one. The various departments which now are involved in education will continue to operate entirely on their own. Just to what extent is the federal government involved in education? I should like to give you a brief review of the present involvement; it really is quite considerable. The provision of schools for Indian and Eskimo children amounts to about \$38 million. In the next fiscal year the Department of National Defence is spending for service colleges about \$7,800,000, and for the operation of elementary and secondary schools for children of members of the armed forces there is a budget item of about \$9,900,000. As I mentioned earlier, under the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act \$186 million has been budgeted. In the next year the grants to universities will amount to about \$100 million. In addition to that I note in the estimates an amount of \$9 million for the Canadian student loan fund. A running total of these figures comes to about \$351 million.

In addition to that there are other functions of the federal government in the field of education which I have not mentioned and for which I cannot give figures. There is the external aid office of the Department of External Affairs which is involved in recruiting student teachers to send to underdeveloped countries; there are the various grants from the Department of National Health and Welfare to research organizations, and there are a great many grants from the Department of Agriculture, not to mention the work of the National Research Council and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The latter, by the way, it seems to me does most