

research in the subjects covered by the humanities.

I was particularly interested to read in your recent report that arrangements have been made for the exchange of university professors between Australia and Canada. I sincerely hope that this experiment will be a successful one.

When Mr. Casey, the Australian Minister of External Affairs, was in Ottawa at the time of the Colombo Plan meetings, he made a broadcast in which he expressed regrets as he had done in private conversations with many of us that there was not a greater exchange of information between our two Commonwealth nations and he suggested that we would both profit by an interchange of newspaper correspondents. I am confident that the example of the Council in arranging for visiting professors to be exchanged will meet with Mr. Casey's full approval. It should contribute in a most practical way to greater understanding between the Australian and Canadian peoples.

This reference to some of the achievements of the Humanities Research Council is intended to indicate that the government is conscious of and grateful for the contribution of the humanities both to society and to government. Under our constitution the ability of the federal government to express that gratitude in terms of tangible assistance is of course limited. It is scarcely necessary to recall that under the terms of the British North America Act, education is a field reserved for the provinces. I am convinced that it is right that this should remain so and my colleagues and I have reaffirmed on several occasions our desire to maintain that situation.

Formal education must be adapted to the circumstances in which people live, their conditions, their customs and their environment. The shores of the Pacific are very different from my own province of Quebec, and the Prairies form a strong contrast with industrial Ontario. Yet each of these areas is an integral part of the Canadian whole and each in making its contribution must be allowed to develop its own traits. We do not want Canadian education to be uniform or standardized; it should take into account all the different features, geographical and human, which characterize this nation.

However, the national government of this country does have a responsibility in matters of importance to Canadians as a whole. It was in recognition of that responsibility that in 1949 we appointed the Massey Commission to consider the part played by certain federal agencies in the development of a Canadian way of life and to make recommendations concerning their future operation.

Many of you who are present this evening made a contribution toward the conclusions of that Commission either as members of the Commission or members of groups who made presentations to it. You all know too, the tenor of the recommendations that were made to the federal government as a result of this study and that many of them have already been acted upon.

The Massey Commission drew attention to the serious financial plight of the universities in the post-war era of rising costs and diminishing endowments and it