

Sir, what an illustration this is of the urban orientation of this government, and what an illustration this is of the total disregard and neglect of the basic industry in this country. It troubles me beyond description that any minister of finance can put together a Canadian budget without a single moment's thought to the agricultural community. And this occurs at a period when much of Canadian agriculture is in a condition of explosive change, and in a critical cost-price squeeze. The Minister of Finance has done less than justice to himself and to his colleagues by his contemptuous disregard of the Canadian farmer.

I assert to him that his proposed deferment of the building on the satellite experimental farm is the very reverse of what he should be doing. He should be expediting those buildings and stepping up the program of research into animal and plant diseases, soil nutrition, animal and plant breeding to increase productivity, and to reduce costs. A pause in the experimental farm work will be self-defeating. It is penny wise and pound foolish, ill advised and inappropriate, and a wholly invalid technique for attempting to deal with the spiralling costs of building.

My political neighbour, the hon. member for Renfrew South, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) must know the essentiality of proceeding with every possible dispatch with this satellite experimental farm. I appeal to him directly to insist that the Minister of Finance end this arbitrary and capricious deferment of the satellite experimental farm.

I found astonishing the Budget's silence on the subject of the federal role in education. At one stage in his speech the minister paid lip service to the need for manpower training and for improving the skills of the labour force. But that was all. True, the Speech from the Throne contained some pious ejaculations about the role of the federal government in education. The Prime Minister has announced some interim plans for increasing university grants; but the house had the right to expect, sir, from the Minister of Finance some discussion of the financial provisions proposed to be made, and also discussion of the future plans of the federal government in this vital field of education.

Let me state my view very definitely. The federal government must take the necessary responsibility for the financing of education, and for the developing of the intellectual

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resources of the nation. The present piecemeal approach of student loans, bursaries, etc., I say is inadequate. The need for federal participation in the field of education, and particularly in higher education, has become a fact of Canadian life which cannot be gainsaid.

The position is very clearly set forth in a few sentences of Professor Frank H. Underhill, delivered during the Massey lectures of 1963. At page 65 this is what he says:

In an environment that changes every decade with the revolutionary advances of science and technology, our future depends on our flexibility, our adaptability to changing conditions. And this depends upon the quality of the education that we make available to our young people. This is a national interest that we all have in common; in the conditions of the second half of the twentieth century, our rigid division of powers in which we insist that education is a function belonging entirely to the provinces is self-defeating. In a world economy in which all groups are becoming daily more interdependent for their economic health and prosperity, we need a strong, well-equipped national government to direct and supervise the growth of our economy as a whole in its relations with the world as a whole.

I am sure it will astonish Professor Underhill that one of his students who never agreed with him when he was a student now agrees with him completely.

In my view, the time has come to establish a national office of education—a national education secretariat, call it what you will—reporting to parliament through the Secretary of State and responsible for planning and co-ordinating all the national efforts in the field of education. The time to do it is now.

I suggest that special support is needed in the field of the humanities. The revolutionary advances in science and technology have tended to obscure the importance of the humanities. In particular, in my view, a greatly expanded program of research in the fields of political science and economics is urgently needed. Special federal help to the two universities in the national capital regions, Carleton University and Ottawa University, ought to be given in these particular fields for which the location of these two universities gives them a unique advantage. These two universities ought to be predominant in the fields I have mentioned, but they have had little opportunity adequately to equip themselves for the special role which I believe they should play in the fields of political science, economics, and probably history.