

I have visited some countries where the personnel of the government and of the civil service constitute a class regarded as somewhat above the hoi polloi of the general public. I think our brand of democratic institutions is better suited to our way of living and I hope that brand will long continue to be preferred to any ivory tower set up.

And I wish to add that I have no intention of posing as a benefactor of our universities and other cultural organizations. I happen to be the head of a government that does not manufacture the money it spends. It digs down in the pockets of all the Canadian taxpayers to get it, and we of the government are merely trustees on behalf of all those Canadian taxpayers. The proposals I am putting forward, I look upon as a good sound investment of the taxpayers' money and so do my colleagues.

My colleagues and I feel that the annual federal grants to universities should be continued and increased and we are prepared to recommend to Parliament at the next regular session that they be doubled.

As you know, according to the present formula, these grants are distributed by the Federal government directly to individual universities recognized as such by the Provincial governments. In the province of Quebec, the authorities saw fit to allow this aid to be accepted for the first year only, because they feared that this was a first steps towards encroachment on the exclusive jurisdiction of provincial legislatures in the field of education. It was also feared in certain circles that the Federal government might interfere with the freedom of universities. That was certainly not our intention nor the intention of Parliament nor do I think it could happen.

In order to dissipate these fears and to make it abundantly clear that we do not intend to tamper with the freedom of any individual institution, we are proposing to hand over the monies voted by Parliament each year for that purpose to the National Conference of Canadian Universities which would divide it up and distribute it. In this way, the Federal government would have no contact with any individual institution. We think that this system will prove a sufficient guarantee for all our universities which should be completely free from any kind of interference. If the N.C.C.U. decides to assume this new responsibility, we will ask for authority to enter into an agreement with the Conference in order to carry out this arrangement.

We propose to hand over the money to the N.C.C.U. to be allocated as if all eligible institutions were to accept their share of the total amount. If any one of them should feel that it cannot accept this assistance for the time being, we would propose to provide in our agreement with the N.C.C.U. that the money allocated to that institution be held in trust for it until it sees fit to ask for it. In this way, no institution would be penalized in the future for a previous refusal of the grants, and there would be no unjust discrimination against any group of taxpayers in Canada in this respect.

You will also recall that the Massey Commission made a very important recommendation with regard to the establishment of a Canada Council for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. According to that recommendation, the functions of the Council would be to stimulate and to help