

The Address—Mr. Poulin

whole way and show that our universities are in a bad way because the central government draws too great a share of the people's taxes, leaving the provincial treasury practically empty? In this regard, I cannot help quoting an article written by Andre Laurendeau in *Le Devoir* of November 20 last.

I quote:

Having ascertained the financial difficulties of universities, the Massey commission did not wish to go further. On the contrary, it suggested that the central government do likewise, that is go beyond its jurisdiction and actually do away with the provinces and take over, with its billions, the field of strictly academic education.

The Montreal chamber of commerce had suggested that the commissioners remind the central government of its duty of enabling the provinces to act, by the return of a substantial part of their tax fields.

But the Massey commission carefully avoided this and thereby revealed its intentions.

It speeds up the wheel of centralism, introducing centralism into a field where one never dreamt it would dare intrude: in the field of education. It seeks to introduce it into a position until then strongly guarded.

The commission proposed, it is true, an agreement with the provinces. But why seek agreement in a field of exclusive jurisdiction? If there is really no other way of proceeding, —and I cannot believe it is so—let the state give unconditionally and refund to the provinces what it has taken from them.

Mr. Lesage: The election fund!

Mr. Poulin: The remark of the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet (Mr. Lesage) is out of place. I am trying to stay above petty politics. In that connection, may I say that I have heard in this house speeches oozing with electoral anxiety. I am trying to rise above that and I shall not comment further on my hon. friend's remark.

Some may say that universities are willing to accept and even request federal aid which, sooner or later, in my humble opinion, will entail state supervision and control. My answer to that is that we forget the old saying: "It is no use preaching to a hungry man." I might add that a hungry man has no eyes to see. Besides the universities though, a large number of individuals and groups in Quebec are not so hungry that they have not kept their eyes and ears open and are unwilling to accept this logic in reverse. I might quote a few, for instance the Rev. Father Richard Arès, S.J., who said this:

The Massey report is full of the generous intentions of its authors, but this generosity, after all, leads Canadians into temptation, by inviting them to admit into their own spheres of activity the state, and the federal state at that. There is a

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danger here that they will no longer be masters in their own house and will be like those people who let into their tent the proverbial camel.

I am also referring, without mentioning their names, to many journalists who contribute to the magazine *Relations*, to the Liberal Winnipeg *Free Press*, not to mention the University of Montreal Alumni Association, the Student Federation of the University of Montreal, the Montreal branch of the Societe Saint-Jean-Baptiste, the Federation of Junior Chambers of Commerce of the province of Quebec, the District of Montreal chamber of commerce, Mr. Rene Chaloult, independent M.L.A. for Quebec county, as well as others, and, finally, the Catholic Farmers' Union of Quebec, whose opinion—

An hon. Member: They haven't read the Massey report.

Mr. Poulin: —whose opinion, to my mind, is very important, since I have almost limitless faith in the common sense of our farmers.

We know what is going on today in the field of radio, which is controlled by a corporation of the federal government so dear to the heart of the members of the Massey commission. When the federal state has usurped the field of education, is it not to be feared that what is happening now in the C.B.C. will happen there and that we will be unable to make it stop?

I think that perhaps—and this will undoubtedly please the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet—we shall never have a central government better disposed about these matters than the one we have now. This statement, I hope, will also satisfy the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Arsenault) who sees nothing but electoral concern in the views of those who express themselves freely on this admittedly debatable issue.

Mr. Lesage: That is unfair.

Mr. Arsenault: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Beauce should not ascribe such intentions to me. I do not ask him to withdraw his remarks but I wish to point out to him that it is not courteous to ascribe such intentions to one of his colleagues.

Mr. Poulin: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I have misunderstood the meaning of the remarks made by the hon. member for Bonaventure. He was evidently speaking with much more warmth than today. However, I have read his speech in *Hansard* and I gathered from certain portions of his speech that he accused