

Proposed Adult Education Council

sports and physical fitness council is attempting to provide in the area of sports. A third purpose would be to co-ordinate the various types of adult education. There are some forms of adult education which are not receiving sufficient attention simply because there is a great deal of overlapping and I believe there is necessity for co-ordination in this entire area.

Finally, the purpose of the resolution is to promote the establishment of a permanent centre for the scientific study of adult education. I believe this resolution can be improved and I am convinced that hon. members can contribute much by their discussion. There are many hon. members who are interested in the subject and I trust the resolution will arouse considerable debate.

With regard to the constitutionality of my proposal I wish to make it clear at the outset that none of the purposes I have mentioned involves an interference in the rightful activities of the provinces in the field of education. There is no suggestion of the federal government setting up courses or establishing curricula. It in no way involves the existing structure of education, as a provincial matter, in primary or secondary schools. It does not in any way involve itself in language, religion or culture.

The resolution recognizes the fact that the federal government is already active in many forms of adult education. I have already mentioned the sports and physical fitness council which is really a form of education. I also remind hon. members of the various activities engaged in by departments of government including the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of External Affairs. These departments engage in activities which can only be described as relating to the field of adult education.

Many hon. members in this house will remember better than I the important work undertaken by the Department of Veterans Affairs at the end of world war II when many veterans were enabled to take advantage of training and education as a result of the activities of that federal department.

We all know that the Department of Labour is actively engaged in promoting adult education or training under the vocational training act. Under schedule M of the act the department engages in the training of the unemployed; under schedule P, in the training of persons in agricultural subjects, homemaking, forestry and fishing, except in Ontario and Quebec; under schedule R, in the training of disabled persons and under schedule K, in training and educational courses within our armed forces.

[Mr. Pitman.]

It is interesting to remind ourselves of the extent to which the federal government, as the main tax collecting level of government, benefits from retraining, rehabilitating and higher education standards.

I wish to make clear at this point that I use the term "adult education" in the wider sense to include any form of activity which brings about a higher level of skill or of general awareness to any individual in the nation.

I believe we should consider to what extent adult education used in that sense benefits the federal government in its role as the major tax collecting authority. For example, a study could be made of the extent to which the nation has benefited simply from taxation of those veterans who, through their veterans benefits, were able to take higher education in this country at the end of world war II. Some who are earning between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a year might have been earning only \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year had training not been made available to them through the department and our veterans legislation.

Mr. Howard Rush of the *New York Times* reports that for every dollar the United States government invests in rehabilitation, it receives back ten in the federal taxes paid by those rehabilitated into employment. For 1961, he reports that the estimated earnings of those rehabilitated during the first year of employment will be about \$180 million as compared with \$20 million before rehabilitation. Indeed, the cost of rehabilitation was scarcely more than the cost of keeping them on welfare.

May I now turn to the purposes of the resolution. Let me state immediately that my inspiration for this resolution came largely from reading accounts of the recent national conference on adult education which took place in Montreal last fall sponsored jointly by "l'Institut canadien d'Education des adultes" and the Canadian association for adult education. I know there are in this house a number of hon. gentlemen who are members of these bodies.

The following are some of the recommendations and proposals which came out of the committees at this conference which I feel will be of interest to hon. members of this house:

1. We must establish on a national scale, a co-ordinated program of adult education and professional training.
2. We need research at national and community level into needs and motivations of these deprived adults.
3. Government, private enterprise, labour and educators should make an inventory of