

Education

is undertaken. That fact, together with the increases in the salaries of teachers and the high cost of necessary equipment, has created a burden that is becoming almost intolerable as far as many of our communities are concerned. If the government is not prepared to make grants in aid to the provinces, certainly it would be possible for them to assist very materially in other respects. For example, having in mind the heavy cost of capital construction, surely it would not be impossible for the national government to set up a revolving fund from which money could be borrowed at a very low rate of interest, perhaps 2 per cent, for purposes of school construction. Some of the provinces are doing this already. We are doing it in my own province to a limited extent. I will admit frankly that not all the money in the world is available for this purpose, but much valuable construction has been undertaken in my province as a consequence of this money having been made available. The national government would not have to use any of its own money for that purpose, because I am not unmindful of the fact that they still hold approximately \$12 million which rightly belongs to the educational institutions of the western provinces, if I may put it that way. Moreover, the Alberta school trustees association has taken a firm position with respect to that. In convention last year they passed a resolution which reads as follows:

Resolved that the provincial government be requested to bring pressure to bear on the federal government to release a substantial portion of the school lands fund, which presently amounts to approximately \$12 million and is invested in dominion securities, for the purpose of establishing a fund from which school districts can borrow at a low rate of interest, for the purpose of providing new school accommodation, which is so urgently needed in all parts of the province.

I am not suggesting for one moment that \$12 million would be sufficient, but if the policy is to be one of not granting more assistance than that then certainly even that would help. While I am not wavering from my demands for grants in aid for education, I am not unmindful of the fact that probably the government would not be prepared to do that, but they could give favourable consideration to the removal of certain taxes which bear quite heavily on educational institutions. In many provinces the school boards and the department of education are endeavouring to provide a better standard of education by bringing together several of the smaller country schools and setting up a three or four-room school, establishing equipment for limited specialized training in several fields, better qualified teachers, and so on. They are providing school buses to bring those children to the school, and are paying heavy sales taxes when purchasing

the buses that are used for that purpose. Surely, the least the national government could do would be to give favourable consideration to the removal of those taxes.

In all that I have said in the last moment or two, I do not want it thought that I am prepared to accept these as substitutes for federal grants in aid to assist the provinces in providing educational opportunity for the children. Mr. Speaker, that is all I intend to say at this time. Suffice it to say in conclusion that my colleagues and I stand solidly together in support of the motion which is before us.

Mr. G. C. Nowlan (Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak very briefly on the resolution which is before the house. Of course, we fully realize the implications of the constitutional problem as suggested by the member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming). But when we remember that in my own province, for instance, many years ago the government under Sir Robert Borden assisted in the construction of technical colleges in the city of Halifax and has contributed to their support and maintenance since, and when we remember that during the last few years this government contributed materially to the education of veterans, we realize that the constitutional problem is one which can be solved.

If one reads the papers from my own province today one would find that there is, not quite an altercation but a difference of opinion, between the government and the teachers in Nova Scotia. During the last few years the educational standards of those teachers have been materially increased. Today we have a substantial proportion of college graduates teaching in our schools. The provincial government has assisted by increasing the grants, yet those teachers find that they cannot support their families and keep up the standards which they must if they are to do a reasonably efficient job in the profession to which they have been called.

It is not my purpose, however, to speak on the general educational problem this afternoon. For a very few minutes I should like to direct your attention to one particular field. During my lifetime it has been my privilege and pleasure to have been associated with one of the small colleges of this country. It is one of many, particularly in the east, although I realize they are scattered throughout this dominion. In the maritimes we have Acadia university, Dalhousie, St. Francis Xavier, Mount Allison, all religious denominational colleges but with only nominal denominational control. They are serving all classes in the community and are not receiving any government support. They are universities