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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Novia Scotia | 52e  | 3e  | Discours sur l’éducation | 1981 | Terence Donahoe | Ministre de l’éducation | Progressive Conservative |

**Nova Scotia: Education’s speech, Third session of the Fifty second legislature, 1981**

FRI., MAR. 13, 1981

HON. TERENCE DONAHOE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to have the opportunity to rise and speak for a short while at least, in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. It is traditional I know to start with the extension of congratulations to various people, and I certainly do not propose to depart from that custom and practice. I have particular interest and delight, Mr. Speaker, and I say this as I know you know, to you, seriously, and for the benefit of all of our colleagues, that it gives me particular delight to be able to extend a personal congratulation to you on your election by this House as Speaker. As you well know, better than I, better than, perhaps, most members, if not all members of this House, you now occupy an office which has been occupied in the past by some of the most distinguished of Nova Scotians, and you have done yourself, and I say again, on a personal basis, your family, particularly, proud by being elevated to that extremely high and important office. (Applause)

I would like too, to extend congratulations to the honourable member for Queens. We in the House have come to know him as a concerned and an effective, and certainly a committed member of this Legislature. I know from personal experience with him that he has in the past, and continues now in his new role as Deputy Speaker, to make a significant contribution to this House while maintaining a tremendous rapport and providing a quality service to those people in Queens County whom he represents.

I would like too, to extend congratulations to the honourable member for Guysborough, upon his election at a most interesting leadership convention, as Leader of the Opposition. I have watched with interest his time in this House during this session, in that new capacity, and it is obvious from outward appearances, at least, that he and certain of his colleagues and, I am sure, advisors, are taking great care to package him in a way that will attempt to have him attract some interest of the Nova Scotia electorate. I do, as I say, wish him well in his position and trust that he will have a long, long and distinguished career as Leader of the Opposition.

I would like too, to extend congratulations to the House Leader of the NDP. The House Leader of the NDP, Mr. Speaker, as you well know, has never at any time been backward or hesitant at all in making his point of view, and his Party's point of view, known to this House and to the province. I sincerely wish him well in his role and trust that after the next two or three elections he will, or somebody in his place, will also be House Leader of the NDP.

I would like to, as my final note of congratulations, to extend a welcome and congratulations to our newest colleague, the new member for Cape Breton East. As you may know, Mr. Speaker, and certainly many members of the House know, and I know the new member for Cape Breton East is well aware, I had occasion to become fairly intimately involved in the election campaign which resulted in his resounding win, a win which was attributed not only to the new member for Cape Breton East as an individual, but a win, Mr. Speaker, which I know that all Nova Scotians have recognized, perhaps if I might, not unlike the win that your father and mine, Mr. Speaker, was involved in in 1955. That win has been referred to by many people as the first. step in the formation of the Honourable Robert L. Stanfield's first government, and the harbinger of a turn in the thinking of the electorate in Nova Scotia to the personalities and program of the Progressive Conservative Party.

I would like to say that all Nova Scotians, particularly all those in Cape Breton, have recognized the win by our newest colleague, by the new member for Cape Breton East, Mr. Speaker, as the harbinger again of the turn to the Conservative Party and the policies of the Conservative Party and it will, I am sure, be shown in the next provincial general election, whenever that should come, that the new member for Cape Breton East will return to this

House as an old hand and will be accompanied by an overpowering majority of Progressive Conservative members from Cape Breton Island with him.

Just a couple of brief comments about my constituency and then a turn, if I may for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to a couple of substantive items relative to my responsibilities to this House and to the province, in my position as Minister of Education. As you will know and most members, I am sure will know, there is real reason I think for me to have particular pride in representing the constituency of Halifax Cornwallis in this House. Some of the names that have preceded me as representatives of what used to be called Halifax South, now called Halifax Cornwallis are, I think, legitimately to be included in the perhaps a "Who's Who of Nova Scotia Public Life." I would refer, of course, to the fact that the constituency which I have the honour to represent was on two different occasions, over two

spans of different years, represented by Angus L. Macdonald and Angus L. Macdonald, as all members will know and all Nova Scotians will recall of course, was Premier of our province and he represented my constituency through the years 1933 to 1940, and again through the years 1945 to 1954.

The constituency which I now represent was represented as well by my father, and my father was a member, as you will know, Mr. Speaker, of the Honourable Robert L. Stanfield's Cabinet from 1956 to 1970 and as, on a personal note, I cannot tell you the emotion and elation which I felt on the September night in 1978 when it was possible for me to shake hands with the Liberal candidate who had been defeated in that election, who happened, by coincidence, to be the same gentleman who had brought my father's political career to an end by defeating him in 1970. My father, I think, I believe, and it sounds a little bit biased and personal I suppose, but I believe delivered a service of real importance to the people of his constituency and to the people of Nova Scotia during his time in public life and I consider it a real honour and privilege to follow him as representative of Halifax Cornwallis.

It would be remiss and unfair if I did not refer to the member who did precede me in this House, from Halifax Cornwallis, and that of course was the Honourable George Mitchell, who served as well in an effective and more or less non-partisan kind of a way relative to the activities of some of his colleagues of that day and some of the members today of the Official Opposition. It was my feeling of the Honourable George Mitchell always that he was a man of integrity, he is today of course, and was during his time in public life and was a gentleman. I would like to think that when one considers those three names to whom I have made reference as representing Halifax Cornwallis in the past, that all of them would be considered to be men of ability and of integrity and of principle and I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that whenever my time comes to an end as a representative of the people of Halifax Cornwallis it will be possible for somebody on a future day to include me in that list as well, as having at least to a modest extent some of those same characteristics.

I would like to attempt, if I could in a few minutes, to review certain of the activities of the Department of Education. We hear in this House, Mr. Speaker, a great deal unfortunately about an awful lot of negative things and we hear, predictably enough, and understandably so, we hear from members opposite often, that the government does not do this and the government does not do that, and the government does not care about this, and the government does not understand that, and on and on, and on. That may well be typical of Oppositions, it is certainly clear that it is typical of the current Official Opposition and I think it might be worthwhile for me and perhaps be even modestly salutary for some of them, if I would be permitted to take a few minutes to make mention of some of the activites of the department which I have the honour to lead or head at the present time.

I heard, the other day, the honourable senior member for Yarmouth virtually blow a gasket and break some blood vessels in his vilification of the government of the day, today's government to the effect that this government has really done, little or nothing, for the municipal units and the municipal taxpayers of our province. He made fairly copious reference, Mr. Speaker, that the costs of public education in the province were a very substantial and onerous burden for municipal taxpayers.

Do you know what I find interesting about that, Mr. Speaker, it is simply this, that he is absolutely right. It is intriguing to watch that honourable members and others opposite, some of whom who had an opportunity to be members of a Cabinet, presumably, the group which was in a position over eight years to do something about the problems to which they now refer, and refer daily, ad nauseam, in this House and nothing of any kind was done about them.

One of the most significant things, I submit, done thus far by this government, Mr. Speaker, has been the commissioning of a study of public education finance in Nova Scotia, it is now coming to be referred to, across the province, as the Walker Commission. The very point of that commission having been established, Mr. Speaker, is that this government recognized the validity of what the honourable senior member for Yarmouth talked about the other day, and did something about it.

Namely, we asked some intelligent and knowledgeable people to look at the situation for us so that we could be, as government, provided with recommendations which would enable us to formulate policies and take decisions which would have the effect that he seeks of us, namely, to deliver some benefit and some assistance, much needed assistance, to the school boards of this province and to the municipal units and, of course, as a consequence to the municipal taxpayers. That Public Education Finance Commission, Mr. Speaker, will report to me on the 31 st of March, some 18 days from now. It will be considered immediately by Cabinet and I have every expectation that the Premier and my colleagues will find themselves in a position to respond effectively and promptly to the report and recommendations.

Already, during the time that this government has been in place, Mr. Speaker, there have been major increases in the rates of sharing support for school/pupil conveyance and school capital construction. How many times have we heard from members opposite that there are difficulties being experienced again by school boards and municipal units in regard to both of those items. This government came to power, recognized those difficulties and have improved the sharing rates in pupil conveyance and school capital construction and improved them substantially. Thus, assisting or attempting to assist, and we know, having assisted to a great extent, with the c~sts faced by many municipalities.

There has been since our time in government, Mr. Speaker, has been received a copy of reports done by the Department of Education and done by Voluntary Planning. Those reports were an analysis and a review of what goes on with our vocational schools. The point was to provide us with the information necessary to establish a new range of programming that will be more effective and more to the point, perhaps, more relevant to the commercial and the industrial need and reality of our province.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, that all honourable members will, I am sure, have read and read carefully and considered paragraphs, such as Paragraph 90 and Paragraphs 91 and 92 of the Speech from the Throne, in which very important and significant things are said about the whole field of manpower training. I expect, Mr. Speaker, to be in a position to come to this House in the not too distant future, and to announce a wide ranging and effective expansion of the programming which is now in place in our vocational schools and our technical institutes across the province.

In recognition of the importance of that whole field of vocational and technical training, we have followed, and followed immediately upon its receipt or the receipt of both of them, of the Voluntary Planning Report and the Department of Education Report. We appointed a new position in the Department of Education. That position is called the Director of Vocational Education and the point of making the appointment, as I am sure would be self-evident to all members, is to ensure that unlike the uncertain, nebulous, undirected efforts of the previous government for eight years, there is a legitimate attempt by this government to have, in the Department of Education, a capability to not only identify but effectively implement programs of a vocational or a technical education nature.

There has been a lot of talk in this province about careers, what happens to young people when they come through the public school system. There has been, since this government took office, Mr. Speaker, an entire new emphasis on career education in our public school system. We have developed guides and texts in our system which are designed specifically to enable guidance counsellors and instructors across this province to not only themselves have a fuller understanding of career opportunities for all of our young people but, more to the point, to be in a position to translate those realities effectively to the young people.

We have established, since taking office, Mr. Speaker, a computerized career guidance system across this province. It is called Choices and it is a program developed in conjunction, well, developed basically by the federal government but implemented by the provincial government. And I might say with some modest pride, Mr. Speaker, that the implementation of this computerized career guidance system in Nova Scotia, this system called Choices, is the implementation for the first time in any provincial jurisdiction in Canada of a province-wide computerized career counselling program.

There has been, on a positive note again I trust, Mr. Speaker, there has been tremendous effort and effective work done by the Department of Education in the coordination and the implementation of training and language programs for the 1,000 plus South East Asia refugees who have come to this province and I want to say that I say thank you to the Premier and to my Cabinet colleagues for reacting as they did, each time I came to them to talk about the immigration of South East Asia refugees into our province - and

that is, among other things, one of my responsibilities in the Department of Education

each and every time, Mr. Speaker, the Premier and my Cabinet colleagues were more than willing to immediately indicate that, regardless of limits earlier agreed between this province and the federal government, this province was prepared to make a home for as many of those refugees as were anxious to come to Nova Scotia and there have to date been something in excess of 1,000 of those people come and they will in time, they are now, many of them, effective and productive contributors to not only the economic but the social and the cultural life of our provIDce and we will all, as Nova Scotians, be the richer for it.

There has been a great deal of talk and there is annually, and it appears to me sometimes as if it is not only annually but almost weekly, a great deal of talk about post-secondary education and, in particular, the accessibility that our young people in Nova Scotia have to post-secondary education. I want to remind you and all members of the House, Mr. Speaker, that this government recognized upon taking office that there were serious bars to post-secondary education accessibility and one of the bars, obviously, was the availability of funds for the student population in this province to have access to the schools, to the universities, by reason of a less generous Student Aid Program being in place than might be desirable.

So, since this government has been in place, Mr. Speaker, the student bursary component of the Student Aid Program, the bursary component being the non-repayable grant portion of the program, has been increased and it now stands, it has been increased, as a matter of fact, by $600, having risen in the short time of this government's responsibility for it, from a bursary limit of $1,100 to the current bursary limit of $1,700.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, as will all members, that this government introduced legislation to change the name of the Nova Scotia Technical College and it is now known as the, and being called officially, the Technical University of Nova Scotia. There is, Mr. Speaker, far more importance to that occurrence than simply a name change and I can

indicate to you that through, again, the good offices particularly of the Premier, who has a particular interest and obviously a responsibility in this area, there is a growing and increasing emphasis on engineering and related training in this province and if we are to be full participants in the oil and gas developments which we all hope so much are going to be available to us in part of our lives in the next short while, that kind of a commitment and emphasis is absolutely necessary.

We have opened and equipped a major resource centre at the Nova Scotia Teacher's College in Truro. We have developed teaching guides and programs to ensure that as rapidly as possible a truly adequate opportunity for Nova Scotia's Acadians, to learn in their first language of French is made available to them.

We have made improvements and refinements and added to the funding of the education incentive fund for Black students.

We have developed a course in Canadian studies that has been established as a compulsory element of the high school programs across this province. We are the first provincial Department of Education, Mr. Speaker, to commission a specific text on provincial, in our case obviously Nova Scotian history and geography, and that text is now being written, as you well know, having had some involvement in part of it, in the early stages, by a Nova Scotian scholar for introduction into our public school system.

We have developed audio-visual materials and productions of Acadian history and culture, and we are soon to see, and some, I think, in the province have already thus far seen what we consider in the Department of Education, Mr. Speaker, an outstanding audiovisual series on the Micmacs, and work is in progress on the development of audio visual programs in connection with the Black community and culture of our province.

We are preparing, as is indicated in the Speech from the Throne, and I think it is a most important commitment and undertaking, to introduce legislation to amend the Education Act to make good on this government's commitment to secure the right of Nova Scotia's Acadians to public education in French, and I would expect that within the next two weeks I will be coming to the House with the proposed amendment to the Act.

We recognize, as a government, because we, I say very seriously, Mr. Speaker, I believe it to be the case. We have on this side of the House, and our colleagues in our caucus on the other side of the House, a group of men who understand and who are committed to the

legitimate needs of people. What I always find interesting, frustrating too, but interesting, is

that Opposition members opposite, like to tour the province, and tour the country, and tell anybody who will listen how they understand the little guy, and they understand people,

and so on, and the Party of which I am a part is hooked into and controlled and directed by

the big corporate interests.

Well, the honourable member for Antigonish says, you are right, my goodness. We have witnessed in this House in the last couple of days, my colleague, the Minister of Social Services stand up and talk about programs which give the flesh to the commitments of a group of people on this side of the House. (Applause) And, in that connection this government has done more than pay lip service as the previous government did, to what is and is becoming an increasing need and concern of those involved in education, Mr. Speaker, and that is to deliver service which is of real value, long-term value, to those young people who, in our education system in our province, who unfortunately, for no real apparent physiological or medical reason, have difficulties in learning.

The honourable minister referred to his colleague, the honourable Minister of Social Services, making announcements with regard to three programs. Mr. Speaker, I am not disagreeing, I think they are three good programs, but in fairness, would you not think it would be proper for the Minister of Education to admit to the House, or at least tell the House that probably the largest of those three programs, and it is the largest in terms of dollars to help senior citizens, the Special Social Assistance Program was formulated and started under the former Regan Government?

Oh, I do not take any issue with who starts, and the honourable member from Antigonish can have all the credit he wants to attract to himself for starting it. The fact of the matter is, that this government recognizing the validity of the program has been prepared to put the money where the mouth is and has doubled the amount of money in the program. (Applause)

We have therefore, in regard, Mr. Speaker, to those young people who unfortunately do suffer learning disabilities, this government understands their particular and special needs, and as a consequence through APSE, the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority, we have devised a program whereby it is possible for admittedly a relatively limited number at this point, but a number none the less, of young people experiencing those difficulties to be funded to have residential academic opportunity, and that program we believe will, over time, become very expensive, but over time, will make it possible for hundreds and hundreds more of our young people who otherwise might end up having personal and other difficulties, being able to make a major and substantial contribution to themselves, their families, and to the Province of Nova Scotia generally.

We have made major improvements as a government, Mr. Speaker, to the expansion of our museums and historic houses system across this province, and I recall that a Dr. William Taylor from the National Museums office when he was present at the opening of the Sim

eon Perkins Museum in Liverpool, as an example, referred, remember now as a member of j

the National Museums of Canada, referred to the Nova Scotia system as the finest provincial'

museums and historic houses system in all of Canada, and that is in part, in fairness to Opposition members opposite, is a legacy from some of the activities undertaken by, during, them by the time they were in government. But we have as I have indicated made major expansions in developments in those fields.

We have implemented a program at Nova Scotia Teachers College, Mr. Speaker, whereby native Micmacs of Nova Scotia are able to be trained as teachers. We have recognized as a government the very real problems faced by the native population of this province, and we recognize too that at this moment at least, it is difficult if not impossible in most cases, for members of that race to be able to avail themselves of the academic programs necessary to qualify themselves as certified teachers. Recognizing that, we were committed and effected a program at Teachers College which provides, and at the moment there are something like 20 people in the program, 20 native Micmacs, provide a program where they can have special and extra training to go into the schools of Nova Scotia particularly, obviously, in those areas where there are substantial Micmac populations, and teach in those schools and

we trust because of their heritage and their understanding of the native history, culture and : current reality, that they will be able to bring the best out of the native children in the

school system, so that we can participate with them as a government, to overturn the .'

appalling dropout rates and difficulties that are faced by young natives in our province. ~

In my responsibilities as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, you will be aware, Mr. Speaker, as will all members, that we acted in an area where the former government talked a great deal, and that was in regard to the implementation of matrimonial property legislation, and we know from reaction from other parts of the country, Mr. Speaker, that that legislation is being hailed by many as being the most enlightened and advanced of its kind.

You will know as all members will, Mr. Speaker, that in the Speech from the Throne, there is reference to the fact that there will be a commission on pensions, and it is clear that, in the main, the big losers in regard to pension legislation in Nova Scotia and, indeed, in this country - by reason of the fact that the pension legislation and programs from coast to coast in this country read as they do - the big losers are invariably the women, particularly the women who are widows of men who have had, at the time of their deaths, pension rights and benefits. Far too often and for no good reason, often, the pension benefits die with the death of the male spouse and the woman is unfortunately left in very, very dire straits far too often.

I have received from the Premier and from my colleagues a commitment that when that commission is formed and is put in place that there will, in fact, be a place for a woman member of that commission to ensure - and a woman, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, who will have an understanding and the sensibility to those special needs faced by women in the area of pension legislation and practice and a woman who will be able to bring to that commission a full understanding of the real needs of women in regard to pension legislation.

I would like to talk quickly about two other things, if I may.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable minister would permit a question?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister since he raised

the matter of the commission on pensions, and I realize he is not the minister responsible,

but he indicates an interest in it, if he could tell members of the House when that com

mission is going to be appointed and get underway? Because there have been expressions of

great concern on all sides of the House about the matter of pensions, the matter of teachers'

pensions, public service pensions and pensions in the private sector, and pension eligibility

for women. I just wonder if the minister could enlighten members of the House as to how quickly that commission is going to get underway.

I cannot give the honourable member, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, an exact time because I have not, myself, been informed of the exact time. I know that the Premier and others are actively considering the formulation of the commission and I would expect, while I hesitate to even suggest a number of days or weeks, because I have not yet been informed, I would expect that in relatively short order that commission will be in place and will be operative, but I do not have an exact time frame.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the Province of Nova Scotia rightfully claims jurisdiction and, certainly, control of development of our offshore resources, regardless of how all of that shakes down in our dealings with the federal government who have not thus far been

prepared to accept that view of ownership. We are going to have to bring whatever product is there to our shores. We are, therefore, going to have to develop land-based support services and refineries and port capabilities and depots and ancillary services to exploit that oil and gas coming from the offshore wells.

That base is very likely to be this province because, frankly, we are the part of mainland North America that is closest to the theatre of action in the North Atlantic and in the high Arctic. So we have, as all honourable members will know, already established or enhanced capability in our port facilities, refineries and shipbuilding yards and the beginnings of other such industries, which are related, such as electronic and marine engineering and geological research.

We are the natural base, I think, Mr. Speaker, for explorations into the high Arctic and into the northern seas. We are the natural and the logical terminus for pipelines and oil and gas facilities to take crude oil and natural gas extracted from offshore sources. We may, we hope, we have every reason to believe and, certainly, we have the hope that we will become major producers of oil ourselves or, at the very least, will become key participants and intermediaries in the production of oil and gas that is certain to take place in the future off the coast of Newfoundland, very possibly off our own coast and almost certainly off the coast of Labrador and in the Arctic islands.

We have already, as a government, and it is relevant, I think, in the context of a resolution introduced today by the honourable member for Cape Breton North, to say so, we have as a government begun to prepare ourselves for the very likely spin offs from those efforts

of exploration off our coast and in other areas relatively close to us. While we may not - as

I remember the former Leader of the Opposition, pictures in the paper holding up little vials of oil and so on and talking about the new dawn being upon us - we may not have shown signs as a government and as a province, yet, of oil fever, while we have not allowed ourselves to be gripped by some of the more obvious and sensational attributes of a boom mentality, Mr. Speaker, we are, I can assure you and hope to assure all Nova Scotians, quietly preparing our way for developments that seem certain to come our way.

You may be aware and other members of the House are aware that my colleagues, the honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and the honourable member for Cole Harbour, who is, himself, of course, a highly regarded professional engineer and who is doing a superb job as Chairman of the Nova Scotia Tidal Power Corporation (Applause) those two members of our government, Mr. Speaker, along with several senior officials from the provincial government, were in Scotland not so long ago to see for themselves, at first hand, the impact of North Sea oil and gas on the north eastern area of Scotland. That is the area, as many members will know, that is referred to as the Grampians and it is the area closest to the North Sea oil grounds.

What our government team learned, as a result of that experience, Mr. Speaker, is in pretty good detail what we could expect to happen in our province. There has been there a tremendous influx of people, both skilled and unskilled, and there has been a crushing need for housing, for schools, for new business, for airports, for roads, and for all the other amenities to service a growing area. And, along with those basic and necessary services, is a great need for skilled personnel to carryon the work of exploration, support services, and eventually production and transportation of the final products, in that case principally oil, in our case we hope, oil and gas.

The northern part of Scotland is not unlike Nova Scotia in many aspects, Mr. Speaker. It is a relatively small geographic area, it is remote, more or less, from the main industrial

and commercial centres of Great Britain, it has no great store, or had at the time of the boom, any great store of trained personnel on which to draw, and it would not, by a lot of objective standards, be considered a prime location in which to live and prosper. Yet, with the discovery of that North Sea oil suddenly the north of Scotland offers a real bright future to many with good salaries and skilled jobs, and secure futures. I believe, I firmly hope, for all of us and for all of those who will follow us, Mr. Speaker, that that is the kind of result that we can expect here in Nova Scotia with the advent of offshore exploration and ultimate finds.

But, anyone who has perhaps even given a glance at the current map of the Grampian region, that area of Scotland that I am referring to, will be struck by the concentration and the network of oil refineries and ports and pipeline stations and terminals, drilling ships and shipyards and chandlers, helicopter ports, airports, pipelines for both oil and gas, natural gas radiating from the hub of Aberdeen to all areas of the United Kingdom. And what is just as striking is the wide range of drilling platforms and stations and locations and pads that now dot the area of the North Sea between Scotland, Denmark and Norway. And there are several dozen separate fields and drilling locations now in operation, with pipelines linking those to the shores around Aberdeen.

As the mainland province closest to the fields, Mr. Speaker, we in Nova Scotia, I think, are very likely ourselves to become the terminus for a system of pipelines and shipping routes that will bring this newest harvest of the seas to the shores of the North American Continent. (Applause)

If, Mr. Speaker, such a massive scale of development to which I refer should come, and I speak hypothetically for the moment, because I am well aware of the many technical, economic and jurisdictional problems that still have to be sorted out before truly major development occurs, it will certainly, whatever the development, have a major impact on our lives, all of our lives, and nothing like oil and gas developments can take place without bringing about many, many changes. And what the provincial government, and I say perhaps specifically because of his resolution today~ to the honourable member for Cape Breton North, what the provincial government has been doing, and what the provincial government is committed to do, and do effectively, and do well, is to ensure that we will, in fact, be as

ready as possible to face those changes when they occur. .

We are satisfied, because of the activity and interest and effort of those people in virtually all departments of the provincial government already, we will be ready to deal with the arrival of the new industries and the new technologies, with the new physical structures and establishments that will come to our area, with the new populations and migrants coming into our region, or indeed returning home, and we would hope that many would return home. New opportunities for our young people, which is obviously a matter of particular interest and concern to me as Minister of Education, and new businesses for already existing industries, for existing services and professions, new opportunities for Nova Scotians to establish industries, services and professions that are entirely new to this region and that, all of which, of course, will be demanded by developments in oil and gas.

But I have, Mr. Speaker, a very major concern and that is a concern that with major oil developments, young people in Nova Scotia may be tempted to leave school early or to abandon preparations for a career or a skilled trade, to take up highly paid, temporary and, sometimes, unskilled employment in the oil or construction industries, especially in

the early stages of petroleum development.

In Northern Scotland and in the Orkneys, it was found, Mr. Speaker, that many people upon graduation from high school immediately took high paying jobs as, for example, truck drivers during the construction of refineries and ports on one of the islands and once construction of those physical facilities was complete and once the necessary infrastructure was in place, unfortunately, the services of those unskilled young people were no longer needed. Too many people, Mr. Speaker, found themselves, in their 20's, several years after leaving school, without employment and without a skill that was likely to remain in demand, after a period of exceptional economic activity, with nothing but the money in their pockets from the exceptionally high wages they had commanded during the construction boom and maybe, frankly, and there are unfortunate case studies which show clearly there were, and maybe in some cases not even the cash but only some of the memories and the status symbols of the so-called "good life" because, Mr. Speaker, it is in the nature of a resources boom to create a bulge of activity during the early stages of construction and development and exploration.

And to mention the Orkney Island refinery again, it took there, perhaps 2,000 people to construct the refinery and the port and that refinery and port occupies around 600 acres. That is about two-thirds the size of the Halifax peninsula. Now that it is completed, that facility can operate with about 150 people. And this should, I think, Mr. Speaker, show us and caution us a little bit that prosperity for all is by no means guaranteed by any large scale oil or gas development and the actual refining of the product, the actual extraction of the resource, does not in itself require very many workers at all.

By its very nature, construction of the refineries and the ports and the pipelines and the roads and the additional physical facilities that will be required, will take place over a number of years. It will peak, and then if experience is any indicator, it will level off and then perhaps even fall off somewhat, and the permanent, fixed establishments will be there and not need to be expanded unless truly stupendous amounts of oil and gas are eventually found in the Arctic.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that, as I have indicated, there is a great deal of thought and effort being expended by this government to prepare for the impact, some of them adverse impacts, from major oil and gas and related developments. But I want and I think I owe it as a responsibility by reason of my present office, to say to all members and I hope through them to all of the young people in this province, that it is not all a piece of cake and it is not all necessarily that some of our young people might think, to want to give up the attempt that they are now making or will, at the relevant times, be making, to equip themselves for a life of learning and a life of productive work, to leave those undertakings to

move into what looks like the good life and the high paying life, with the big bankroll and. the big cars and all of the other accoutrements that go with a fair amount of money and then find after the boom has turned to bust, or has levelled off, that they are the ones whom are left out.

I would like to take a couple of minutes to, and I have lost track of my time. .. .j

About 15 minutes. If I could, I would like to refer to a matter which has been the subject of discussion in this House on previous days, Question

Days particularly, and that is the whole question of our relationship as a government, Mr.

Speaker, to the federal government and in regard, particularly, to the most important aspect

of established program funding and the payments that come to Nova Scotia from Ottawa,. to support out post-secondary system.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that Canadian federalism, which is very much involved in those discussions, and some of the principles which I believe about Canadian federalism should not be lost sight of when discussions are taking place regarding the federal contribution to post-secondary education in this province and in the country. Canadian federal

ism is a much more complex phenomenon than is implied by any neat parcelling of responsibilities into either provincial or federal jurisdictions. In many areas, federal and provincial jurisdictions overlap, and in many other cases, of course, those jurisdictions, federal and provincial, are parallel, and the resolution of constitutional matters is, as our Premier and as

our government has said repeatedly, but unfortunately it appears to fall too often on deaf

ears with Mr. Trudeau and his colleagues, frustratingly for me as a Nova Scotian, it appears to fall on deaf ears from people who purport to represent me and my family and all families in Nova Scotia as colleagues of Mr. Trudeau, people like Allan J. MacEachen and Gerald A. Regan. The resolution of constitutional matters is achieved far more often through informal understandings and tacit agreement, the acquiescence of one level to the initiatives of the other, and to the dictates of necessity rather than through constitutional amendments or court cases.

Political will, economic power and immediate need are most often, and more appropriately, decisive in constitutional issues rather than constitutional theories or legal principles. This is, frankly, no more true, I think, than in education, despite the constitutional provision, Mr. Speaker, which places responsibility for education securely and exclusively, I submit, in the hands of the provincial jurisdiction. The funding of education is, in fact, a shared undertaking between the provinces and the federal government. It has been, it should be now, and it should continue to be.

Over the past generation in particular there has grown up a powerful and an influential federal presence, in education, in particular through Ottawa's financial support in areas such as vocational and technical education, second language instruction and, of course, the post-secondary institutions, and inevitably that financial support, Mr. Speaker, has brought about the creation of certain programs and institutions, but it has also had a bearing on the nature and the purpose of those programs and institutions as well. And nowhere has the federal presence more clearly been seen than at the post-secondary level of all those I have just mentioned.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, just before, do I get the time for the question?, I would take it but I do not. . .

Brief question, brief talk.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take a long time in responding. No, the honourable member might like me to change some figure that I used in the de

bate the other day. I said specifically in that debate, Mr. Speaker, and it is true, and it is

documented, taking a look at federal documents, that the total number of dollars coming to

the Province of Nova Scotia from Ottawa, earmarked by Ottawa for post-secondary education, is $67 million.

I said, in the course of the debate and the questioning back and forth with the honour

able member opposite, that, yes, there are indeed other amounts of money, which are the transfer of equalization payments and tax points which result in another substantial number

of millions, round figures, 30 - all right, I will even give you 42 - $42 millions coming to

Nova Scotia. Not for post-secondary education, as the honourable junior member for

Inverness - well, he waves a document which is his nice brown covered document, which he

got from Allan J. or his people I presume. . .

The difficulty, and perhaps it might be more appropriate, let me extend an invitation, if I am permitted within the rules, to the honourable

junior member that he spend some time to prepare some questions for me and put the

whole matter to me again, on a future Question Day. It might help me to see the questions

in advance, but if he does not want to give them to me in advance, that is okay too. My

difficulty or frustration with the invitation is that I do not know whether the honourable

junior member for Inverness will be any more enlightened about the basic flaw in the premise he makes when he puts that future series of questions to me, Mr. Speaker. So, notwithstanding the invitation, it might be less than productive than we might hope.

In any event, as I have indicated a few moments ago, there is and has been a substantial federal contribution to post-secondary education in this province and it is the university sector, the post-secondary sector, the university sector I guess, I better be specific

because that is the distinction between post-secondary and universities and there is a difference, that it is the university sector that has benefited in Nova Scotia and across the

country most greatly from Ottawa's largesse, if I may use that word, during the years, Mr.

Speaker, when governments and society generally thought that money invested in universities would ensure automatically increased incomes for graduates and ever higher marginal

tax receipts for governments from the graduates in higher tax brackets and greater productivity for the economy and a greater degree of equality among social classes and regions in

this country.

That is, of course, the old human capital argument which I am sure has a familiar ring

to anybody who was around universities during the mid and the late 1960's and it has to be

said that such arguments were sometimes advanced, frankly, disingenuously by academics

and others who valued the university for its traditional academic and intellectual mission

but they feared that the public or government would only buy an economic rationale for

universities and we now know that the universities of themselves, simply of themselves,

simply cannot produce the kind of unending prosperity and affluence that some once

imagined.

The federal support for universities, Mr. Speaker, over the past 20 years and the particular direction that support has assumed, has been determined largely, I believe, by a bias towards serving a national economic policy. I want to hasten to point out as I have on an earlier day in this House, that I do not want to be heard as suggesting that we in Nova Scotia or, indeed, I am sure any provincial jurisdiction in this country, that we do not understand or appreciate or endorse the need for a continued and thoughtful national economic policy. We just wish the government in Ottawa would produce one.

We acknowledge there is such a need for a thoughtful, national economic policy and we believe very seriously that there is a significant role that post-secondary education has to play in a thoughtful, national economic policy. Nor, Mr. Speaker, would I want to be thought of for one moment as doubting the absolute necessity of continued federal financial support that can be applied to the support of our universities here in Nova Scotia.

All of us in the Maritimes, and if I may presume to speak on behalf of the three Maritime Provinces because you are aware that we are very much involved with each other's activities and undertakings through the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, we, but particularly perhaps though, for those of us in Nova Scotia, we have a burden of financing post-secondary institutions, which is staggering sometimes and it is, it at minimum is onerous.

The unfortunate reality, and the Opposition members opposite would want to get up and jump and howl and scream if I say what I am going to say, that we are less well-endowed economically than other regions of this country and a major reason that that is the case is because the federal government in Canada simply has not been able or prepared to look at this part of the region and to give us the same kind of opportunity and to treat us in a way which is, on any objective standard, able to be considered equal with the way in which other parts of this country are treated.

We are less well endowed economically. There are few potential donors from the private sectors, from whom our universities can solicit contributions, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, federal funds playa particularly essential and strategic role in maintaining our universities.

While our ability to finance our universities is less in comparison to that of other regions, our responsibilities are, in fact, greater, given our size. Nova Scotia has the greatest number per capita of post secondary students, in all of Canada. A larger proportion of those students come from outside of the province and the region than is the case in any other provincial jurisdiction.

More of our graduates, whether native born, or outsiders, take up jobs outside of our region, following graduation. It is something now like 55 per cent of every young person graduating from our universities, upon that graduation leave the region and takes up employment elsewhere. That students from away, Mr. Speaker, should choose to come and pursue a post-secondary or university career and course of study in Nova Scotia is a tribute, I think, to the quality of the instruction and life that is to be found in our post-secondary institutions and in our province, but it leaves us in Nova Scotia with the unusually heavy burden which we are least able to shoulder ourselves.

Continued support of our universities is, I submit, Mr. Speaker, simply a confirmation of the ideal of equalization among the different regions of Canada.

I want to stress also that this principle would be very seriously compromised if we were

unable to preserve the system of mainly under-graduate universities that we have established

in our province, and support targeted at research installations and libraries, welcome as that

might be, and the reason for my specific reference there, is that the noises out of Ottawa,

Mr. Speaker, are to the effect that there will perhaps be, a backing away from the EPF programming, as we now know it, in support for universities, but the federal government now

starting to say, do not worry, because we are going to use that money in other more or less related areas, and we are going to invest great amounts of that money in research installations and libraries and other like facilities.

That is all very well, and those monies for those purposes would be tremendously welcome here in Nova Scotia, but the fact of the matter is, that they do not recognize the

reality of the university system in this province, that we are predominantly an undergraduate system. We have, as I have said, more places per capita than any other jurisdiction.

We spend more money per capita than any other jurisdiction. We have the highest per

student cost of any other jurisdiction, and how that conundrum is ever going to be resolved

is one, frankly, for which I do not have a current answer.

But, I do say, that if the Government of Canada fails to recognize that in some instances, interestingly enough, some of those post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia were

in place, and were contributing to the development of Canada, before there was a Canada in

1867. Our history is so long and so deep, and our commitment to education, and particular advanced education is of such long standing, that we have in this province institutions which

were providing for all parts of this country, in advanced education, even before the BNA

Act of 1867.

Most Canadians, I think, Mr. Speaker, would support the contention that there is a

responsibility to be shared in large measure by the federal authority, to allocate funds for

equalized access to higher education opportunities by individuals, regardless of personal

or family economic circumstances.

I do not find an inconsistency in the remarks, or in the

comparison of remarks attributed to the honourable Premier, and those I am now making,

Mr. Speaker. The point I am attempting to make is that there must be a recognition that we

have special needs, particularly in the field of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia, that it is essential, having regard to the nature of our country and to the history of the development of our country, that it is encumbent upon the federal authority to assist and support in the funding of our post-secondary system. I am, for one, not adverse at all if that support comes by way of the transfer of further tax points or otherwise. I think the position suggested by the Premier and the position I am suggesting now are certainly compatible.

There are, and I will try to conclude fairly quickly, Mr. Speaker, there are, I would perhaps suggest even further to the remarks I have made to this point, that having regard to the international nature of many aspects of scholarships and scholarship and teaching and research, the increasing interest of other nations in the placement of students in our postsecondary institutions, it is clear that some coordination of effort between the provinces, with their jurisdiction in education, and the federal government with its jurisdiction in international affairs, is necessary and appropriate and I would suggest as I did at a symposium in Vancouver a few weeks ago, suggest that the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada is increasingly the mechanism for the coordination of that effort.

So, in summary therefore, it is clear that there are substantial reasons, regardless of the present constitutional reality or changes to come, which dictate that we must favour and, indeed, insist upon a continued federal financial involvement in post-secondary education in Canada. However, to refer to the items which I have just mentioned as justification for a continued federal involvement does not in any sense, in my opinion, add up to a

justification for an advocacy of an increase in federal authority or control of post-secondary education.

The underlying reality of this country is its diversity. This country was established and it exists today and frankly I submit that it can only continue to exist on the basis that its parts had, and it will continue to have various interests and priorities and that the purpose of Canada as a whole was, when we were created or established as a unified country, and it will again or it must again continue to be in the future, to serve each and all of those various regions and interests and those priorities in different ways.

And so I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that any major diminution of support for our universities will erode the idea of equalization, but support with elaborate conditions attached would encroach on the equally valid Canadian ideal of provincial jurisdiction in education. And since the essential role of universities, the role that makes the university a university, rather than merely an institution of higher training, is related to cultural diversity, then it follows in my view that our universities, as other elements of education, must remain under provincial jurisdiction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will conclude in just a moment. I think, Mr. Speaker, that we must support our university system and to support it as handsomely as is possible in the economic reality with which we are faced. We must

defend our support for our universities ultimately because they represent or are supposed to represent certain ideals of rational discourse and free inquiry and untrammelled research and investigation, conducted without fear or without favour and we value them because they have the capacity, we hope, or are supposed to have the capacity to impart certain habits of mind, certain qualities of thought which we believe as a province and as a nation to be of permanent value to all of us in this province and across this country.

Mr. Speaker, the fear I have in part is that the approach taken by the honourable junior member for Inverness in discussions with me inside this House and his performance through the media and so on, would have Nova Scotians believe that the monies coming from Ottawa are being ripped off in the sense that there is the federal government of this country anxious to help and assist with the university sector of our community, and the post-secondary system generally, but those of us in positions of decision making, the decision makers in Nova Scotia, are ripping off those amounts, and are not investing them, as we should be, in our post-secondary system in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Speaker, what happens when that kind of talk starts to be spread about, first of all I should say that it is inaccurate, the honourable junior member for Inverness should know that it is inaccurate, and it creates misunderstandings across Nova Scotia. But, most importantly what it has the effect of doing, is affecting the minds of those who have our lives and our future very much in their hands. Those are the people who make the decisions in Ottawa, and it becomes more difficult for me, and for my colleagues, to be able to overturn a mind frame that might be established in the minds of bureaucrats and politicians in Ottawa, if, in fact, they come to believe that maybe there are, in fact, being fewer dollars spent in Nova Scotia on our university system, which is so crucial to our province and to the country.

I would simply say, that the more important and the more helpful debate that could be held would be an analysis, or a cooperative effort or undertaking that will enable us to convince people like Allan J. MacEachen and Gerald A. Regan, Q.c., and others, that we have made traditionally, and will in the future as a province, make a greater contribution proportionately to the life of this country, in terms of the final placing of university graduates, than frankly in proportionate terms, any other jurisdiction in this country. And, we have done it for our entire history, and we will continue to do it, but we can only do it if we have the help and support of those people in Ottawa who make decisions as to how much money will be forthcoming from Ottawa for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying in regard to the Speech from the Throne that it is a document which recognizes, indicates a recognition on the part of the Premier, and all members of the government, that there are people in Nova Scotia who need programs and services, in some cases programs and services which were talked about for years and years by Opposition members, and in connection with which little or nothing was done. It is a

document, Mr. Speaker, which plots a thoughtful and a sensible course for the next number of years in the Province of Nova Scotia. It talks particularly about people, and it does not talk about big corporations, and the boys in the three piece suits, it talks about what do Nova Scotians need to live a better life than has been the case to this point.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I trust, first of all, that the few remarks that I have made will have some impact with some, particularly those about the caution to our young people, as our province grows and develops, and particularly if that happens in a short time, and in a significant way with oil and gas developments, that they not simply abandon their training for a long-term, and jump into that system and find that after the boom period they are the

losers. I would conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I support and endorse, and am proud

to have had a part in the preparation, as modest as that part was, in the Speech from the

Throne read by His Honour here not so many days ago, and will certainly vote against any

and all amendments that I have heard to this point, and vote in support of the resolution. (Applause)