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Mr. Chairman, it obviously comes as no surprise to honourable gentleman that there is a very large vote in Interim Supply, in the Department of Education. As honourable members will recall, it year's vote was approximately $150 million and obviously the proportional amount in interim is proportionate to the overall expenditures of departments, I just point that out because there is nothing unusual about it.

Mr. Chairman, what I intend to do is to go through, giving the amounts under the major beadings. It is all very straightforward and it is for the regular services and expenditures of the Department of Education for approximately the first two months of the fiscal year which is still a part, of course, of the present academic year. Out of the total of $33 million, there is an amount of $12.9 million in teachers' salaries, that is the payment to regular teachers in the schools throughout the province and would include as well institutional schools and various hospitals, the Vera Perlin School and all of the elementary and secondary schools throughout the province. There is an amount of $1.6 million (are rounded off to the nearest decimal) which is salaries in public service of the Department of Education. the civil service salaries and the salaries of instructors in the district vocational schools throughout the province. There is an amount of $750,000, under the heading of provision and distribution of school supplies, and ninety or ninety odd percent of that would in fact be textbook, many of which we have already ordered. I suppose involves will be coming fairly soon for textbooks for the next academic year.

Mr. Chairman, there is an amount of $2 million, operational grants, these are the grants paid to school boards throughout the province. there is an amount of $1.6 million for the transportation of school children. There is an amount of $1 million, grant-in-aid, to the College of Trades and Technology. There is an amount of $300,000, the training and manpower programmes. these are the students in the various vocational schools, (all of this is current) Memorial University, grant-in-aid, $3.8 million; College of Fisheries, grant-in-ail, $600,000 and then there is a total of $3.8 million which would include all of the other expenditures, all of the other subheads in the department, the operating expenses. (i.e.. the School for the Deaf, the Audio Visual Scholarship and Bursary Programme), various grants, the work of curriculum, the travelling of various consultants within the department and indeed all of the services, apart from those which I have already indicated with specific expenditures.

Mr. Chairman. the other two items. making up the total of $33 million, would be under capital expenditure: The erection and equipment of schools, $2.5 million. That as I recall it is the same amount that was voted in Interim Supply last year and I think it is a fairly constant amount that is put in there. Under other capital, apart from the day school system, if you wish. there is $2.1 million, and that: would include vocational schools on capital expenditure and would also include equipment, such things as rentals by the Department of Education where we rent quite a number of classrooms or buildings across the province for adult classes and related services and also for rental purchase which we pay on, I believe fourteen vocational schools. Those in the general headings are the way the expenditure is broken down.

Mr. Chairman, I did not quite catch the minister's first statement in connection with the, amount in Interim Supply of $33 million for a two-month period and how this relates proportionately to the amount that will come forth in the main estimates. I note that last year the main estimates provided, approximately now, $150 million for education. If this $33 million in Interim Supply represents an amount in proportion to what would be demonstrated in the main estimates we will have something like $198 million provided in the main estimates for this year. At the outset, Sir, I would like to get some indication from the minister as to whether this $33 million represents to any degree what the figure will be in terms of the main estimates for education. Just using some figures here I would expect that we could expect an amount of almost $200 million for education, more specifically, $198 million in the main estimates for education. Could the minister indicate whether this is a reasonable assumption or not ?

Mr. Chairman, I do not think to multiply it by six one could - if I did not correct the honourable gentleman it would be wrong. This is not meant with mathematical precision that you would - this amount is to enable the Department of Education to meet its expenditures and its commitments in general for a two month period. It could be for, you know, that it would be sufficient for two months, perhaps a number of weeks or a two and a-half months type of thing. There are some areas as well where a larger amount, let us say two-twelfths or one-sixth would have been allocated because it could well be that at that particular time of year a fair amount of expenditure under a certain subhead would be made. It could well be, for example, that early in the year perhaps fifty or sixty per cent (I am just using a figure there) for costs for text books might be paid because naturally, during the last months of a fiscal year there is very little expenditure in that area because they are all ordered and placed. They are placed early in the academic year and they are ordered, mostly ordered some months ago and invoices and bills could well come in. I think the usual procedure is that the majority of the expenditures there would probably be April or May, under normal circumstances. It would not be mathematically accurate to multiply by stand say with precision that that is going to be the total estimate. That would not be the case in this department and I do not think that that would be the case in any department. It is a basic indication but mathematically I would not say that to multiply these by you would have the total amounts for the various departments when the estimates are tabled.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I certainly hope that that is true because even if we made the assumption that we would get $198 million for education this year, that would represent $48 million over and above the amount that was expended last year unless the revised figures are substantially different. I would suggest to the committee, Mr. Chairman, that more than a $48 million increase is necessary for expenditures in education this year in view of the difficulties that the school boards of this province find themselves in with respect to their debt on the capital accounts side and with respect to their debt on the operating side.

At this particular point in time, Mr. Chairman, I intend to reserve most of my main points for consideration during the main estimates of the Department of Education. However, there are a number of points that I would like to bring up. Number (1) I think I shall ask them one at a time in order to give the minister an opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to answer specifically each one of the questions rather than going on to any great length. One point I would like to bring up, Mr. Chairman, is this : The third term at the university will soon be starting and I know that there are a great number of students who are interested in knowing exactly what the Student Aid programme will be at the university as quickly as possible so that they can make plans to attend the third term. Of course there are a great number of persons who want to make their plans immediately for attending the university during the term starting in September.

The main question I want to ask the minister is this : What efforts have his department made over the past few months to formulate a Student-Aid Policy, not just for the university students themselves but to formulate a Student-Aid Policy, obviously in consultation with the federal authorities, so that students attending the vocational schools, the College of Trades and Technology, Adult Education Centers, the College of Fisheries and any of the regional colleges that mayor may not start within the near future and/or community colleges and/or extensions of the universities and whatever these institutions represent, what attempts, what efforts have the minister and his department officials made to formulate a student aid policy that would be fair and equitable to students attending all of these post-secondary institutions ? The one I left out was the university. I left that out deliberately for the simple reason that I have been accused in the past of being the member for Memorial University and "Mr. University" and this sort of a thing.

Our main interest, Mr. Chairman, on this side of the House, is that students who leave the high schools in our province will go to the post-secondary educational institution of their choice, of their desire, to study at that particular p]ace, not go to a particular institution simply because the student-aid policy is more beneficial to them.

I have spoken to thousands of students, Mr. Chairman - well, hundreds of students, Mr. Chairman - who have indicated to me that they were going to the College of Trades and Technology and/or the vocational schools for one simple reason, the period of time of study is not as great, the job opportunities are probably greater when they graduate from those. The most important reason is that the student aid policy of that College of Trades and Technology or the vocational schools is far superior to that which exists at the university, and they really wanted to go to the university. I would remind the minister that we have half the per capita attendance at our universities compared to other provinces of Canada. Now, you can find differences from province to province but of the national per capita average we have exactly one half. Sir, if there were ever a province that should have an open door policy as far as university education is concerned, I would suggest that it is this province, but not at the expense of students who wish to go to the College of Trades and Technology, Vocational schools, Fisheries College and what have you.

So, the major question is this, Mr. Chairman; what steps have the government taken to ensure that there is an equitable formula established in student-aid for all students who wish to go to any type of postsecondary educational institution in this province? Has the minister been working on this? In particular is there any money in the interim supply bill here set aside for student-aid at the university for the upcoming third term? Has there been any change in the student aid policy for university students for the third term?

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will answer the last part of the question first while it is fresh in my mind. There is in the estimates, in the interim supply rather, in the interim supply an amount for student aid for university students and also of course in the other post-secondary areas for provincial students. It is based essentially on all - I will put it this way and it answers the question the same way : About two weeks ago the government received the brief or recommendations of President Morgan's Task Force established on student-aid. Some time before that a few weeks before that we received a brief from the C.S.U., the Council of Students' Union. We are studying both. The one of the university of course includes as membership the C.S.U., the faculty of the university and people from provincial government. That is under active study. There are three or four sort of alternatives proposed in it. No final decision has been made with respect to any changes in the policy for student-aid. The matter is under study and certainly a decision will be made when the provincial budget is brought down. With respect to the general area in which the honourable gentleman was speaking, that was, in a sense - I think I would be putting it correctly if I said what he was suggesting or hoping for was a parity or equality so that students in university and other institutions would have the same form of student-aid.

Of course there is one area - I am sure he realizes this - where of course it is totally out of our control. That is the actual manpower students, because in these institutions in a sense there are two categories of students, basically there are. There are others too. There are people going there for probably adult classes. Basically on what we are discussing now, there are two categories of students. One, manpower and the other provincial students. Now, the manpower students of course receive regular payments from the Federal Government Department of Manpower and whatever it is called inaudible. No, not our department, the federal department of Immigration. Right, Manpower and - the gentleman is an egotist Manpower and Immigration. These are very attractive payments, of course, from the federal government's point of view, from the Federal Department of Manpower's point of view.

They regard this as a, you know, labour, totally labour-market related. These are people being prepared to enter or to re-enter the labour market. On the whole, I think the allowances they receive are quite competitive with the labour market. Of course, that is done totally without any consultation with us and is quite a different category. There would be no way that we or I suppose any province would be able to match for provincial students in these institutions for university students those kinds of payments. Of course, the vast majority of manpower students are married and have a number of dependents and the payments they get depend upon how many dependents they have. So, I do not think one will get parity with the manpower students and I do not imagine the honourable gentleman was probably referring to that but was thinking in terms of the provincial students. Well, to the manpower students, you know there are numbers there who would or they cannot be there for a period of over a year as I understand the manpower regulation. In many cases they are receiving perhaps five thousand plus per year or four thousand plus per year, depending upon the number of dependents they have. I certainly do not foresee that in the immediate future we shall be able to make that kind of out-and-out salaries, if you wish, available to university students or to other students in post secondary areas. In the area of provincial students in these institutions, and they are those who inmost cases do not qualify for manpower for a number of technical reasons of manpower's own creation, manpower's own regulations, then there is a system, there is a schedule of payment to them which is, I understand, found by most of the students to be not quite adequate.

One of the problems of course is, and nobody disputes the ideal of parity, one of the problems of course is that at the university the vast majority are going for full programmes, four year programmes, some for five year programmes, whereas in the other institutions the vast majority will be going for one year and there are some for two year and a very small percentage on the three year programmes. Certainly, the vast majority are on one year programmes. This is a problem which is focused on and referred to actually in both submissions. that from the C.S.U. and that from the presidential, I think it is called the Memorial University Presidential Task Force Report on Student Aid or some such title. This is, especially with respect to provincial students and their position, these are the university students, this is an area that is focused upon and the fact that provincial students, regarded by many as a more liberal allowance, are having difficulties. Of course, as I said, the problem is that most of them are there for one year, some for longer. All I can say, since we are still studying the two reports and the various alternatives proposed in them. is that we are aware of the problem and certainly government shall have a firm decision when the budget is brought down with respect to the Student-Aid Programme for next year. Right now we are still in the process of examining it and as I say, we got that report about two weeks ago and the honourable gentleman knows it is a very complex area and we are still examining it and studying it in order to come up with what we consider to be the best and fairest programme for all concerned within, obviously everything within the financial capacity of the province. I hope that answers the honourable gentleman's question.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, you know the main point that I was trying to make this, is that really in a way of a positive suggestion from this side of the Rouse that the minister give some very serious consideration with respect to formulating the Student Aid Programme for all post-secondary institutions that have some degree of parity about it. Now I would like to point out to the minister that I am not a complete fool and I do not suggest for one minute equality or fail, as far a be Student-Aid concerted, often you compare one institution to another, it does not necessarily require that equal amount of money dollar bill for allowance be paid out to students. For example, if you had a good residential system for students at a university or at the College of Trades and Technology and these students were put up in these residences, free of cost, obviously whatever institution this would pertain to you would not have, you know this amount of money, the equivalent amount of money would not be passed over to students in the form of green cash or cool cash. There are all sorts of formulas that can be used.

What I am trying to say is that, well what we, on this side to the Hon. Minister of Education is that every effort be made by department to some sort of program. Another thing, Sir, is if you have a programme in a university where by students go out and work for one out of every three terms, say an internship programme where students are being employed and making money during their study period over three or four would contribute towards parity or equality as far as the Student Aid Programme is concerned. However, if these same students at the end of two terms find that they are broke, number one, and secondly, cannot get a job in the labour market or anywhere else, they are in pretty hard straits. So equality of educational opportunity from one secondary institution on another can come about through other mechanisms other than passing out salaries to students or allowances to students or loans to students. I will just ask the minister if he would, you know, very obviously he has the expertise in his department and presumably they thought about these things ever before I brought them up - what we want to see on this side, Mr. Chairman, is action along these lines.

Now, Mr. Chairman, a second point that I would like to bring out:- Do the various nursing schools come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Education? The reason I raise the question is because looking at this chart in here on the task force that was set up by the university, I think all members can probably see without looking at the scale here that these lines up here represent the number of applications of people trying to get into nursing school and these lines down here represent the number of students who are accepted. Anyway if the honourable House Leader knows anything about scales and charts, when you have lines up here and lines down there, there is a great difference between the number of people who are applying to get into nursing school and who are accepted in nursing school. What I am saying this is that the physical facilities made available for students hoping to pursue the nursing profession are sadly lacking. If this does not come under the minister's jurisdiction. I would end that particular question right here. It does that. I suppose one can say that it makes sense, financial sense. The School of Nursing, for example, at the university, sends money to the university that is voted through this department but that is all. The other schools of nursing the ones at the hospitals of course would come under the hospital and their liaison would be with the Department of Health.

Okay, Mr. Chairman, that answers that question. I would like for the minister again we are dealing with Interim Supply and I will not be getting into any great detail at this point, but I was kind of distressed over the minister's statements over the past few months with respect to the fact that administration and his department are not going to go after any great deal of DREE money for the purpose of providing elementary primary and secondary schools in our province. When you look at the amount that the government has made available. I believe $120 million over the next twenty years for school construction. whereas the DEC has asked for $132 million, over seven years, and then when you add on to that the amount that has been provided through DREE you get a tremendous gap between the amount of money that this present administration is willing to provide for school construction and that which is needed. The school boards are desperately in debt to the extent that-the amount of money that they receive from the government can just barely service their debt.

Now I would like for the minister to indicate once and for all as to whether or not it is the plans of his department or government to try to as great a degree as possible to wipe out these capital debts so that the money that is provided to the school boards can be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended and that is for school construction.

Number one - have the government ever considered a wipe-out of the school debts as far as capital debts are concerned, the capital side of the ledger I think this would in itself, Sir, be a great step forward. Last year I recommended seriously, although the honourable the Minister of Finance did not take it quite so seriously. I recommended that this extra money that came to the province as a result of the modification of equalization grants, and for which the Minister of Finance in Ottawa indicated that this was to be used for educational purposes, we recommended that this money be used to wipe out or liquidate the debts of the school boards or partially liquidate 80 that they can use the capital grants through the school boards for school construction. Has the minister given any consideration to that possibility, number one.

Number two, since the minister is not planning to go after DREE money which I think is a desperate mistake, I think it would be much better if this government, provincial government, negotiated with Ottawa to change the specifications and plans of the DREE schools. If they are too expensive to operate, it would be much better if they negotiated with Ottawa to change the specifications of the DREE schools so that this government can afford to operate or the school boards can afford to operate them and then continue to go after DREE money because we are just, you know, turning our backs on available money, I would assume.

One other little point, Mr. Chairman. When you look at the DREE schools in this province and when you look at schools in some other parts of Canada, these DREE schools are certainly not superior to new schools that you would find in other parts of Canada whether they were built by DREE, through DREE or by the provincial government itself. Now, are we going to be second class citizens when it comes to the provision of educational facilities for our youngsters in this province? Do we not deserve schools that are of an equivalent standard to schools to be found in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and other provinces? Now, maybe there is some substance to the fact that we cannot afford to maintain such schools. If that be so, the next logical step is to renegotiate the specifications of the DREE schools so that we can continue to go after DREE money. So, the first point, Mr. Chairman - has the minister given any consideration to liquidating the debts of the school boards so that they can use capital grants for purposes of construction? And has the minister attempted to negotiate with Ottawa for a changing of the specifications for these schools so that we can continue to go after DREE money? Thirdly, what has the government done to meet the requests of the D.E.C.'s for something like approximately $19 million per year for seven years instead of $12 million for a ten year period? That is a generalization brought out as a result of some mathematics here but it is based on the request of the D.E.C's for $132 million for a seven year period compared to the offer by the Department of Education of $120 million for a ten year period. What I am asking for, Mr. Chairman, is did the minister get these three main points ? If so, I will not repeat Mr. Chairman, with respect to liquidating the capital debt of the school boards. Of course, this is a matter in which there are a number of meetings with the D.P.C's and government, the Department of Finance and Education.

Up to the present time it is certainly not government's intention - capacity I would say - it is not within government's capacity to liquidate those debts because obviously in order to do so we would have incur, you know, additional debt ourselves. It is something which we are. you, know, continually aware of and on which there are continuing discussions. There was a meeting a few weeks ago of the D.E.Cts and the representative of the Federation of School Boards, Deputy Minister of Education and the financial adviser to the government, the Deputy Minister of Finance, whose services are available to the D.E.Cts if and as they wish to use his professional services in terms of arranging their own financing.

With respect to DREE – now, the agreement which was tabled in the legislature roughly two months ago does not, of course, contain any reference to school construction. It is open for review each year of its term, it is open for review at each year but as it is now, it makes no reference to schools. What it does refer to is the human resource development and the likelihood of DREE participation in the area of vocational and technical and fisheries education. In this area, plans are being prepared for submission to DREE and discussion with DREE in terms of a subsidiary agreement. I mean we have to work within the terms of what the agreement is now, not what it might be or should be, however way one wants to phrase it, in a year's time if and as it is amended. Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree that if after an amendment after one year, I suppose it is nine or ten months now because it has been a few months since it has been signed, if there is such an amendment with specific reference to schools, then I agree that there must be a more realistic look at the specifications but even more so in the procedure or the channels or the bureaucracy or the steps, the whole amalgam of these things so that it can be expedited, because there have been numerous committees and revisions and the procedural aspects of it. That is secondary. If upon an amendment there is reference there, then I think specifications and procedures should be streamlined.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out to the Minister of Education, I assume that he has read this task force report in detail, the Llewellyn Parsons' Report, not a task force report, Dr. Llewellyn Parons, who was commissioned by the university to look into the drop in enrolment situation. did a very good job because he did not focus just on the university itself. Dr. Parsons did have a look at the situation in the vocational schools, the College of Trades and Technology, nursing schools and the Fisheries College.

Mr. Chairman, some very significant things came out, Mr. Chairman. I am not saying that there in a greater need for more vocational school construction. One glaring thing that came out was that the vocational schools in this province at the present time are capable of accommodating the number of applications that they are presently receiving, which is very significant, when the minister suggests that they are going to go after DREE money for that kind of an institution.

The Minister of Education did mention on a number of occasions, Mr. Chairman, vocational school. Now if he did not mean that, well that is a different thing entirely.

Now getting to the College of Fisheries. One of the problems that the Fisheries College has is in attracting students themselves. They have no space problem. They do not need additional facilities relative to the number of students who are making application to the College of Fisheries.

Now I am not suggesting for one minute, Mr. Chairman, that there is not a need for greater space facilities and expansion of the Fisheries College. I, for one, think that the college officially should be expanded and extended particularly into the communities of our province because we have this vast resource out there. There is a great potential for a very high earning per by people who graduate from the College of Fisheries. But at this point in time, it seems that the Fisheries College is having difficulty in getting students to apply and come into the College of Fisheries for studies.

However, the situation is far different in our primary, elementary and secondary schools when we move, Sir, into the area of operating grants. I know and I will not mention the names of the school, Sir, for very obvious reasons I know of cases where young children in some of the best primary and elementary schools in this province have gone home and have had to change their clothing because they did you know what on their way home from school. The questions were asked and I asked the parents the questions. Why did this happen to this kid? The reason given was that the child refused to go into a very modern washroom in the school because it was in such an utter state and the fact that there were no toilet paper and no paper towelling and this type of a thing. I probably should not have brought it out, Mr. Chairman and I will not name the school but I have been talking to a number of parents who have rung me and other people have probably heard the same thing. I am afraid, Sir, that this is symbolic of the fact that the school boards just do not have enough money for operating purposes.