

Mr. McInerney (York) — March 22

Wednesday next he would move, seconded by Mr. PENDRIGH, that an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the house all communications, including letters and telegrams between his (former) department or himself and representatives of the Mentally Retarded Association and the Cerebral Palsy Association in connection with the institution for mentally retarded children.

Motion Set Over

Mr. SHERWOOD asked that Motion No. 8 stand.

Budget Debate

Mr. SPEAKER: Order of the day —

Hon. Mr. IRWIN, resuming the debate on the budget, spoke as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

It is a pleasure for me to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming to the Legislature the many teachers and students from the Oromocto Junior High School and the Prince Charles Intermediate School in Saint John. I trust that they will enjoy the proceedings of the afternoon and leave with a much better understanding of the principle of democracy in action.

Mr. Speaker, today, I share in the deep sense of honor and humility of many others who have been privileged for the first time to rise and join in the debates of this hallowed legislative assembly.

I do so, as I said, with humility and a keen awareness of my responsibilities to this house, to the citizens of this province and primarily to the constituents of my beloved county of Charlotte.

To you, Sir, I join with your many friends on both sides of the house in extending my sincere congratulations on your elevation to the honorable position of Speaker of the Assembly.

Your decisions and judgments have been unquestionably fair and we admire the dignity and decorum

with which you have conducted the affairs of this house.

I extend warmest greetings to His Honour Lieutenant-Governor J. Leonard O'Brien and I express my sincerest admiration for the regal and dignified manner with which he carries out all the many duties he must perform both inside and outside of the house. I count his acquaintance as one of the real pleasures of my life. I extend to him and his gracious lady my respectful best wishes for a continued rich, happy and rewarding life.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my best wishes to the Premier, Hon. Louis J. Robichaud, and his family, and my warmest congratulations to him for the admirable and energetic manner in which he led his party to success on June 27 last. I am very proud to be a part of this fine Liberal family which he so successfully moulded.

I express my deep sense of responsibility in the honor he has seen fit to bestow on me as Minister of Education. I pledge to you, Sir, and this house that I will at all times discharge my duties with keen awareness of my responsibilities and in the best interests of the citizens of this province.

I extend to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Cyril Sherwood, my congratulations for his selection as Leader of his party. I am certain that he is most gratified with the confidence placed in him by his colleagues. During my short acquaintance with him I know with certainty he justly deserves this honor and distinction.

I must add that it has been a pleasure to meet all members opposite although we disagree politically.

I extend to all members on both sides of the house my congratulations for their success at the polls on June 27 in their respective constituencies.

I have particularly warm feelings for my friend and colleague from Charlotte, Mr. Leon Small, the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, and the seconder, Mr. Patrick Guerette from Restigouche. I join with all others who have preceded me in expressing my sincere congratulations for the manner in which they presented their respective addresses. They

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

were masterfully prepared, admirably presented and most informative.

I join with all members in expressing my deep sorrow at the loss to this province of such distinguished citizens as Mr. Cleve Price of Northumberland, Mr. Fred Squires of Carleton, Colonel Theo Barker of Fredericton; and I also mourn the loss of many distinguished citizens of my own constituency and express my deepest sympathy and condolences to all their families. Their names will ever be a reminder to us of their unselfish devotion and duty performed on behalf of their beloved province.

I would like for a moment to pay particular tribute to one of my predecessors in office. Mr. Speaker, at this time I desire to express our deep sorrow at the sudden passing of Dr. J. W. Brittain recently. During the full 75 years of his active life he was recognized as an outstanding citizen, long associated with the civic, municipal and provincial economy. He at all times gave us his knowledge and energy in the cause of social and economic progress.

As many of you know he was a former alderman and mayor of the city of Saint John and from 1948 to 1952 was Minister of Education of this province.

In all these offices he served with distinction. His quiet, friendly and unassuming manner endeared him to all. His devotion to duty and unquestioned sincerity helped materially in the conduct of affairs in his native city and in sponsoring legislation with respect to educational progress.

While we mourn his passing, we recall his accomplishments and, at this time, I desire on behalf of all members of this house to extend to Mrs. Brittain and all members of his family our sincerest sympathy. May they be strengthened in the memory of his lifetime of service.

I would be most remiss if I failed to extend to the officials and staff of the Department of Education my sincere appreciation for the manner in which I have been received into the department.

I publicly express my deep sense of pride to be associated with these

very devoted men and women who have given me every cooperation and made my task and duties so pleasant and who have been so helpful in acquainting me with the many and varied duties of this important office. Our provincial Civil Service deserves the admiration and respect of every citizen of this province.

To all those associated in the field of education I offer the cooperation of my office and extend to them my sincere best wishes for a most productive and rewarding year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a source of pride to have been actively associated with the Liberal party over a period of 15 years.

I have followed with great interest the careers of so many distinguished Liberal legislators, both provincial and federal, and their honest and genuine interest in the welfare of our lower income people as expressed in deed and action for many years — old age pensions, family allowances, pensions for blind and many others too numerous to mention.

I have never been more proud than I am today to be associated with a government which has implemented so many of its election promises to the people of New Brunswick in the short period of office of only eight months. This government, living up to its obligations, has since June 27:

(1) Abolished the premium tax method for financing the hospital care plan.

(2) The establishment of the Department of Youth and Welfare under the very capable direction of Hon. W. R. Duffie.

We all listened with interest yesterday as Mr. Duffie outlined the areas in which his department will operate. I am certain that both sides of this house agree that the influence for good on our youth will be immeasurable, and that we can look forward to a recognition by our youth of the opportunities that exist in our province and that their talent and experience will in the near future be utilized for the development of our economy.

(3) Lifting of spring weight restrictions on a trial basis on main trunk highways will stabilize our

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

provincial economy during the period of six weeks in which spring weight restrictions were formerly in force.

(4) The introduction of an open moose season and the announcement by the Minister of Lands and Mines, Hon. Mr. Crocker, that the season will be reopened again this year for a larger number of sport enthusiasts.

(5) Introduction of legislation of a greatly expanded program of interest free loans for students — as enumerated by my colleague, Mr. Duffie, yesterday — who are attending our universities and technical schools, as well as scholarships to students in postgraduate work who wish to attend institutions outside of the province, due to the course of studies being unavailable in our own institutions.

The qualifications for loans will be on the basis of financial need and the determined standards of achievement necessary for entrance into institutions of higher learning in the province.

(6) The appointment of a Royal Commission to study the serious liquor problem in this province and presentation of their recommendations to the government on completion of the study.

(7) The introduction of a bill to provide equal pay for equal work.

(8) The announcement by the Minister of Health, Dr. Dumont, that the province will accept full cost of cancer treatment for patients in hospital.

(9) The removal of the three-cent gas tax for fishermen, farmers and woodsmen for off-highway operations, saving this important segment of our economy approximately \$600,000.

(10) The appointment of a full time Deputy Minister of Fisheries so that the fishing industry will receive the recognition and attention that this important sector of our economy deserves.

And there are many more.

These alone constitute an impressive list of accomplishments that have encouraged confidence in this government and have made our citizens realize that once again a Liberal government is acting in the

best interests of all citizens in an earnest effort to improve conditions at all levels in the economic life of our province.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: As this session continues I know that other members of the government will be introducing legislation of great importance to the province and reporting on the progress in their respective departments, in line with the policies adopted by the Liberal party prior to the election.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a concerted effort by hon. members opposite to discredit the accomplishments of this government and create an aura of non-confidence. I am pleased to say that they have failed and nowhere is this more evident than in my own constituency of Charlotte.

For the information of the hon. members opposite, and in an honest attempt to convince them that they were defeated at the polls on June 27, I would like to mention some of the positive steps taken by the Liberal government to improve conditions, not only in my county but in the province as a whole, and to create an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of industries and encouragement for development in our huge mineral area in the north of the province, an incentive to our primary industries such as fishing, farming and lumbering.

Mr. Speaker, I will be as brief as possible in this portion of my remarks and will, except for one or two major items, confine my remarks to my own constituency.

I am very pleased to report that Charlotte County has enjoyed a winter of improved employment conditions in contrast to a worsening of the unemployment picture in the rest of Canada. This is due in part to actions taken by this government and improved fishing conditions this winter which have kept the fish packing plants of Black's Harbor in operation.

The Department of Education through the Vocational Training Branch, provided the cost of job-training for the operation of specialized equipment at Flake Board Industries plant in Milltown which enabled this plant to get into earlier

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

than planned production, thus providing employment for more than 60 residents of this distressed area.

The action of the Department of Industry and Development in assisting Coloroll Ltd., of St. Stephen to expand their facilities has added another 30 to 35 people to the payroll of this very progressive industry.

Assistance through the Department of Industry and Development has also helped to expand the boat building facilities at Deer Island and the granite business at St. Stephen, thus contributing to a brighter employment picture.

I express my appreciation to my colleague, Hon. Michel Fournier, for his sympathetic understanding of our county problems.

I am also very pleased to announce that at this moment renovations and remodeling of facilities of an unused fish plant on Grand Manan are pressing forward. This plant, I have been informed, will introduce a new process to this area. It is a raw fish pack method and when in operation later this year will provide employment for 75 to 100 island residents.

Mr. Speaker, the following remarks I had prepared yesterday, but I have a further announcement, and I apologize to all members, for they are not included in my text. These are the remarks I had prepared yesterday:

There is a good reason to be optimistic due to the interest shown by a company in the huge granite quarries in the St. George area. We trust that this interest will progress to the stage of actual operation.

I now have this news that I received before noon and I am pleased to make an announcement which, while not connected with my own department, is of great economic significance to the county which I represent and culminates months of effort on the part of your government to bring about exploitation of a valuable but long dormant natural resource.

As many of you know, St. George red granite is the finest in the world and its quarrying and subsequent polishing and finishing gave employment for half a century to over

400 men in the St. George area and earned for the town the title "Granite City".

The inability of several small companies to get together, pool their resources and finance installations of heavy modern equipment at a time when tariff barriers were instituted against their exports reduced the industry to but sporadic efforts to meet competition.

At this moment, however, I am very happy to say that I have been authorized by Mr. D. W. Lacroix, general manager of St. George Pulp and Paper Ltd., to say that they have concluded arrangements with the well-known Quebec and Vermont based Melrose Granite Company, whereby that experienced firm will immediately move in and develop some 800 acres of granite which the pulp and paper company has acquired over the years, primarily for their forest cover.

The initial effort will employ 40 men gradually increasing to 200 as new quarry faces are developed.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. members opposite, does this impressive record inspire a lack of confidence by the citizens of Charlotte in this government?

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. André Richard, for his untiring efforts to resolve the differences existing between the four governments concerned in the construction of the Campobello-Lubec Bridge and to bring about an early understanding that culminated in the awarding of a contract for bridge construction on Nov. 21.

I wish to express to him also the appreciation of the people of Campobello who had been promised a much needed link to the mainland for several years by our friends opposite. I can promise Mr. Richard a very warm welcome when he appears on Campobello.

This bridge is going to be the key to an influx of tourists to this picturesque island which was also the home of the late President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and already has advance tourists billing due to the filming and showing of the movie "Sunrise on Campobello". Bridge construction

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

is providing employment opportunities for the area this winter.

I also express my appreciation to Mr. Richard for his cooperation in providing the necessary funds for completion of construction of the Woodstock Road, sections of the Deer Island Road, seal-coating on Grand Manan and many other projects which were not provided for by the former government. Also his interest in the transportation problems of Deer Island in providing a more realistic ferry schedule to provide for the needs of the people of the island, and the added opportunities for tourist development and encouragement to the Deer Island Playhouse Group.

I could go on at length, but I believe that I have provided little encouragement to the opposition in their program to arouse suspicion and non-confidence in the actions of this government. Contrary to the unfounded talk of our opponents about cutbacks in Public Works, the county of Charlotte has witnessed real progress since Hon. André Richard took over the reins of this department.

Mr. CHALMERS: What about the bottleneck?

Mr. PATTERSON: Route 1.

Hon. Mr. IRWIN: That's not in Charlotte.

I add my words of praise to the Minister of Lands and Mines, Hon. Graham Crocker, for his untiring efforts in promoting better use of our mineral deposits and forest resources. We were all highly elated and encouraged by his announcement of positive action to be taken by Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company this year, and we trust that this is just the beginning.

I am happy to be associated with a government that made possible the expansion of the Saint John Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company. We trust that equally good news may be forthcoming in the establishment of a pulp and paper industry in this area.

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Saint John Shipbuilding & Dry Dock, is making arrangements for the training of

200 welders required in the permanent operation of the new facilities.

Mr. Speaker, may I again ask my friends opposite if these positive steps tend to create lack of confidence in the government by the citizens of the province?

Mr. Speaker, there are many problems yet to be resolved in my county of Charlotte, but there is none more pressing than the necessity to provide better transportation facilities for the 2,600 residents of Grand Manan Island.

My colleagues from Charlotte, Hon. Mr. Webber, Mr. Leon Small and Mr. Alfred Hawkins, have all presented the problem most clearly and I associate myself with them in support of this much needed service. I express my appreciation to Hon. Mr. Richard for his sympathetic understanding of the needs of the 2,600 citizens of my constituency and I offer him my wholehearted cooperation and support in arriving at an early and satisfactory solution.

There is also a crying need for improved road facilities for the islands of Deer Island and Campobello and White Head Island.

These islands are major contributors to the economy of our county. They have been ignored for too many years. The residents of these islands will be most happy to know that the Minister of Public Works plans to visit the islands and to assess the problem himself at an early date, following the prorogation of this session of the Legislature.

I urge the government to give particular consideration to the beautiful and picturesque area of St. Andrews in their plans for establishment of provincial parks to attract and keep within our province the vast potential tourist clientele within a few hundred miles of our border.

This area is unsurpassed in actual beauty and could become the Utopia of North America. The government can count on the utmost cooperation of all organizations and individuals in Charlotte County in a program to provide this much needed development.

Mr. Speaker, in this my first address on educational matters, as Minister of Education, I desire to give a brief review of the problems,

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

the aims and ambitions of the officials of the Department of Education, in order that all may be aware of conditions as they presently exist, the progress which has been made in the immediate past, and suggest to you activities in which we are now engaged to improve our whole educational program. I wish to state most emphatically I am in no way being critical of past efforts in this respect; they have been effective, realistic and many.

I simply wish to state that in my opinion, and this opinion is shared by others in all areas of Canada, the time has come when we must take a serious look at what is happening in education. Young people today are facing a world which is changing rapidly due to the advances being made in science and technology, and it is impossible to predict what changes lie ahead of us.

These changes are influencing our way of living and even affect such a fundamental institution as the family. It is a period of strain and uncertainty when the developments in science and technology are taking place more rapidly than we are able to reorganize to meet and prepare for these changes.

One of the modern developments which is having a great impact on our society is automation. While the industrial revolution brought mass production by dividing a manufacturing operation into small practical units so that the greatest use could be made of the division of labor, automation reverses the trend and combines several operations, thereby broadening the job span.

Machinery takes over the control of purely routine and repetitive processes, thereby requiring upgrading in the labor force to provide personnel capable of supervising, programing and maintaining complicated operations.

As this trend continues, it becomes increasingly difficult for those with little or no training to secure employment. Hence we must provide opportunities for our people to secure the type of education that

will enable them to find happy and rewarding work.

For just a moment I would like to digress from my remarks and just refer to a statement that I read last night. This is by Walter W. Hellier, the new chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to the U. S. government. He has stated that one of his country's most important prescriptions for faster economic growth should be increased government investment in our most valuable resource — the human mind. And, further down, the remarks of Chicago's Milton Friedman, regarded as one of the most brilliant economists in the U. S.:

"We have begun to see that stressing only physical capacities does not pay off. We have begun to question just how much of the economic growth is based on the increases in the quality of physical capital. In the final analysis the answer is technology, and this means the removal of ignorance."

Unemployment figures supplied by the National Employment Service indicate that a very large percentage of unemployed persons in New Brunswick, as well as other parts of Canada, have less than Grade 8 education and are unable to take instructions due to lack of ability to read with understanding and use basic mathematics. In contrast to this situation there are numerous job opportunities for people with skilled training in the occupational, trade and technical fields.

A study made on unemployment figures for New Brunswick as of January 1960 showed that among 11,736 males listed in the unskilled labor category 10,402 or approximately 88 per cent had educational qualifications of Grade 8 or less; and of the total unemployed in all categories 79 per cent had a Grade 8 education or less.

A breakdown by age group shows the following — this is contained in my remarks; I won't bother to read it in detail, but from the age of 15 to 65 there were 10,402 unemployed with Grade 8 or less. There were only 1,081 unemployed with Grades 9 and 10. Above Grade 10 there were only 253 unemployed out of a total of 11,736.

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22				
Unskilled Labor Category (Males)	Grade Grades			Total
	8	9	Above	
	or less	and 10	Grade 10	
Age Groups	less	10	10	Total
Under 20	1,688	411	74	2,173
20 to 44	5,814	552	153	6,519
45 to 64	2,663	110	23	2,796
65 or over	237	8	3	248
	10,402	1,081	253	11,736

For all of Canada for the year 1960, 28 per cent of the total unemployed were in the age group of 14 to 19.

The decision of the government to provide trade and technical schools in various areas throughout the province is an attempt to find a solution to this problem. It is in this area of education that the need is more urgent at the present time, due to the scarcity of skilled tradesmen and technicians and the necessity for providing more training for those in the labor force who are now unemployed.

The technical-vocational program in the secondary grades of 10, 11 and 12 is being followed in some 55 urban and regional composite schools and two vocational schools by over 5,300 high schools pupils, which represents one-third of the total high school population. The secondary technical-vocational programs have two purposes, the providing of general education and the training in skills for employment or for entry to advanced training in a special field.

During the past year the training of adults has been increased rapidly both in evening school programs in the public schools and in full time day courses at the New Brunswick Technical Institute in Moncton.

Most of the 4,600 adults in evening school classes during the school year 1959-1960 followed types of training which were applicable to their daily occupation. A new development in this field was the participation of over 300 stationary engineers in evening school classes to enable them to write necessary examinations for licensing.

Training of adults in full time day classes was conducted at the

New Brunswick Technical Institute in technical, trade and occupational programs. It is expected that about 500 young adults will graduate during the present school year. Since this institution was established in 1949, well over 4,000 have graduated to date. Approximately 85 per cent of these are now employed in New Brunswick along the lines of their training.

The federal government, realizing the importance of technical and vocational education in the economy of Canada, has increased its present assistance on capital construction and equipment costs from 50 to 75 per cent for the next two years on all approved training projects, and in addition has agreed to meet 50 per cent of the operating costs of technical and trade institutes for the next six years.

The new technical institute buildings at Moncton will be completed by August 1961 and will provide a greatly expanded training program for adults in broader fields and at new levels. Besides the commercial and industrial teacher training, and training in trades and occupations, new programs planned for the 1961-1962 school year include.

Two year post-high school technical programs in accountancy, secretarial science, mechanical technology, electronics, architectural and mechanical drafting, trade courses in diesel and new occupational courses in food preparation and servicing.

It is expected that over 700 individuals can be served adequately each year at the New Brunswick Technical Institute. However, this substantial number of young people entering training is only a portion of those who will be applying and who will have the necessary educational standing to profit from instruction.

It is planned to build additional trade institutes in other areas of the province. A committee representing the departments of Youth and Welfare, Labour and Education has been appointed and is now conducting a study. The purpose of this study is to determine the number and location of additional trade institutes required as well as the courses to be provided.

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

To assist in part in overcoming the problem of unemployment due to the lack of training, special adult programs have been organized in five centres of the province during this winter.

Previous to the setting up of these classes for unemployed persons a survey was made by an official of my department through National Employment Service and the Department of Labour to determine needs and employment opportunities. The courses organized were based on the conditions that were found.

Due to the fact that vocational training facilities in the public schools are filled and that the capacity at the New Brunswick Technical Institute is overflowing, it has been necessary to rent space and purchase equipment to set up these unemployment classes.

Trainees for these special three-month programs organized in January were selected by the National Employment Service, Department of Labour and Department of Education by interviews. The following classes are now in operation at Newcastle, Bathurst, Edmundston, Sussex, Saint John and Moncton.

Classes are organized and operated by the Department of Education, Vocational Branch, in: Upgrading of carpenters; auto body repair; welding; brick laying; sheet metal; industrial electricity; upgrading of general education, and meat cutting.

In these classes approximately 360 unemployed persons are enrolled and the reports of their interest in this training are exceptionally good. It is believed that new employment opportunities with a longer period will be available for the successful trainees.

The special training program for unemployed persons operated during this winter is strictly a "pilot" program. It is expected that during the next winter season at least 15 special centres will be in operation serving hundreds of unemployed persons.

Such temporary programs will be required until permanent training at the adult level is available in trade institutes located throughout the province.

Here, a few figures will give an idea of the number of pupils, teachers and administrators at all levels of learning. From these, and by deduction, it should be possible to establish the potential impact of education on future employment.

The number of students in New Brunswick — According to the annual report for the year ended June 30, 1960, the number of young people in New Brunswick is distributed as follows:

Public Schools — Academic and vocational, 145,254; at Teachers' College, universities, private schools not having degree granting powers, 9,799, giving a total of 155,053.

This number does not take into account students taking evening classes, summer school and extension classes or correspondence school.

Teaching staff — Again, according to the annual report, the teaching staff in the province is as follows:

Public Schools, both Academic and Vocational — 6,215; Teachers' College, universities, private schools not having degree granting powers, 727, giving in all a total of 6,942.

Many of these are also employed teaching evening classes, summer and extension classes, and since nine who are at the New Brunswick Correspondence School are accounted for under Administration, their numbers do not appear in the above table.

Administration — It goes without saying that administration employs many persons both at the provincial and at the local levels. The following will give an idea of their numbers as well as of the service to which they are attached:

Department of Education — Deputy Minister's Office, 22; School Planning Branch, 8; County Superintendent Branch, 47; Teachers' College, 34; Correspondence School, 9; Audio Visual Bureau, 6; Adult Education and Fitness Branch, 6; Vocational Branch, 9; Technical Institute, 34; Federal-Provincial Training Agreement, 21; Central Library Services, 8; School Book Branch, 5; Legislative Library, 4; Polio Clinic Teachers, 2 — 215.

Others — Among other permanently employed school administrators, one could count the city

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

and town superintendents of schools and their staff, numbering in all 56 and also the staff of the county finance boards which number 30.

Last year there were 550 vehicles conveying pupils to school. This meant as many drivers.

So far we have a total of 7,793 persons engaged in services directly connected with education in our province.

If to this figure we add 155,053 pupils, it gives us a total of 162,846 persons directly involved in education. That represents 26.9 per cent of the population of the province.

Yet we have not considered figures showing the number of people connected with building, repairs, caretaking and maintenance of schools; we have not mentioned the number of school medical officers and nurses; nor have we begun trying to estimate the number of people responsible for the operation of universities and private schools, such as registrars, accountants, librarians, persons looking after residences, cafeterias, building repairs, heating, caretaking and the numerous other essential services.

All of them are employed because young people must be educated and one would have an incomplete picture of the educational structure of the province if one did not take them into account. And since we are concerned with employment, all of them must be considered not only as employees but also as persons whose contributions to employment is significant.

As far as the department is concerned the growth in enrolments of pupils is a fact; the increase is about five per cent per year. At the high school level the increase is larger and will continue being larger. In the first case, the growth is in proportion to the increase in population; in the second case, the larger increase is due to more adequate facilities than in the past, and also to the public awareness of the importance of education.

But if we are concerned with employment, if we wish to train the greatest possible number of young people to the limit of their capacity, we must keep at school a very high percentage of those who

are tempted to leave before graduation.

To the young people who can, and will, we must give adequate preparation for admission to college or other institutions of higher learning. To the others we must offer such courses as will give them the knowledge and skills essential to securing the gainful and satisfying occupations that modern technological and scientific developments are imposing upon society.

The problems confronting education, not only in this province but everywhere, is how to provide each child with the best education possible in keeping with his aptitudes and ability. Anything less is a waste of human talents and human resources and even detrimental to the development of our provincial economy.

We must be willing to recognize differences which exist in individuals and give young people the type of education which will challenge them within the limits of their mental capacities. We must encourage children to remain in school and provide the type of schooling from which they will profit so that they will eventually find a place for gainful employment in society.

The only other alternative is to have large numbers of young people living in idleness because they are not equipped to find a suitable occupation. This can be disastrous to the morale of the individual and in the long run dangerous to society.

However, this training of the unemployed is only a partial solution to the problem. The most satisfactory answer would be to reduce unemployment by ensuring that every child gets the best possible education that we can provide before entering the employment market. We must urge a "stay in school" policy.

Every child must be given a sound basic education to the extent that he can profit from this education. For some this will mean continuance to university and technical training; for others it will be necessary to terminate this general education at lower levels.

When the saturation point has been reached in basic education, then we must be prepared to give

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

the individual the kind of training and skills which will enable him to find a job and become a useful citizen.

It is necessary for us to realize and accept that all do not possess the same intellectual capacity and our educational planning must keep these facts in mind. For those who possess the abilities, interests and aptitudes to profit from a college or university education, it is necessary for us to provide opportunities which will develop and foster their talents since these people are vital to our progress.

At the same time, we cannot neglect those whose abilities and interests require the kind of education which our trade and technical institutes can provide for post-high school students or those who are not able to proceed to the end of the secondary school program. These children are also vital to our progress as well.

We also must realize that we have children who cannot proceed to the levels of education already mentioned. For these children there is a great need for the development of practical courses that will prepare them for the simple tasks which they can perform.

The Department of Education is now re-examining our school program so that these proposals may be implemented and a better appraisal of the students' capabilities may be possible. Students must be given help in selecting the program suited to them and then in making the transition from the school to the job. In this area the Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Welfare will work in close cooperation.

It becomes necessary to provide guidance and counselling so that our young people may be assisted in making the right decisions concerning their education and future employment. Generally this is not a serious problem for those who complete high school and proceed to technical and university training, although even these students must have guidance and assistance; but it is a most serious problem for those young people who are looking for a job when they leave school.

Especially those students with limited capacity need help in selecting the training to which they are best suited and also assistance in securing a position.

This will require complete information on the types and numbers of positions available in the province and qualifications necessary for these positions so that an easy transition from school to job may be effected.

We must not ignore those who are not able to complete academic or vocational programs. These are the young people who become the unemployed, who become disheartened and dissatisfied with our society. They need advice; they need jobs; they need help in analyzing their own abilities and limitations; they need information about job opportunities and about future learning and growth.

Satisfactory economic progress in this province will not be possible unless we have full employment, and our employment picture will never be satisfactory unless our young people are educated. Our capacity to advance will be limited if our human resources are not totally developed.

It is true that many of our young people who have received a good education through the educational facilities in this province find it necessary to seek positions elsewhere in Canada because employment opportunities are not available here.

This only serves to emphasize that there is a need for more industry to provide jobs for our people and to underline the responsibility of the federal government in providing assistance to education in repayment for the trained manpower which is being exported to all parts of Canada and in giving encouragement to industrial development in this province so that some of our outstanding graduates may be retained to assist in our own development.

However, we must continue to improve the educational system and to raise our standards since human resources are the most important factor in our development. It is possible that we may do something to raise our own economic standards through this education.

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

A good example of this is Denmark, a small country with very few natural resources, no mines, no great forests and poor sandy soil. Through education it raised its standard of living at a time when Danish agriculture was hard hit by foreign competition in the grain markets of Europe.

With respect to the relationship between education and economic status, Dr. Phimister, Director of Education in Toronto, in a recent address gave this example, and I quote:

"One of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources is Columbia in South America. This is a country with fertile lands, good climate, many minerals, forest, all manner of natural resources. Yet it has a per capita income on the average for the years 1952, 1953, 1954 of \$250; whereas Switzerland, a small rocky country with few natural resources, has a per capita income in the same years of \$1,010. What constitutes the difference? In Switzerland you have a high educational development; in Colombia a low educational development."

Statements such as these only serve to indicate that we must give serious thought to the whole area of education and its potential contribution to the development of our province. Since it is impossible to turn back the clock to past conditions of employment, we have no choice but to accept the challenge which faces us.

Individual excellence, knowledge and responsibility, with a true standard of values and human ideals, must be our goal. We must dedicate ourselves to this task if we expect our educational system to contribute to our growth and development. The increased interest in education among all citizens shows that there is a growing awareness of the problems and a concern for the future.

My department is trying to interpret these wishes for improved education into concrete action and, because of the magnitude and complexity of the task, it is counting

on the spontaneous support of all who are interested in the future welfare of New Brunswick.

All that I have said up to this point leads me to one obvious conclusion. Our educational program and the education of our young people and adults will be no more effective than the quality of the instruction given by our teachers in Teachers' College and in the classrooms of our schools throughout the province.

I believe we have one of the best, if not the best, teacher training program in Canada. We have over 500 student teachers at Teachers' College, all with adequate entrance qualifications and taught by a devoted and well-trained staff. I am confident we must recognize our Teachers' College as a bilingual teacher training institution. Equal emphasis is placed on both languages.

I am most pleased that the French-speaking students have a keen desire to learn English, even as our English-speaking students desire to learn French. In fact we have a class of English-speaking students who have enrolled in a special class which meets after regular classroom hours, four hours a week, to learn conversational French. All students are loud in their praise of the excellent opportunities provided whereby each group may profit by associations with the other in the areas of language, culture, music and friendly social relations.

I know it must be a source of satisfaction to all members of this house and to all citizens of the province to know that in New Brunswick, and in our Teachers' College, we have risen above race, language, and religious differences and that we stand as a living example of mutual admiration, respect, cooperation and social integration. How fortunate it would be if many other areas of the world would follow our example!

At this time I desire to extend to university personnel our sincere thanks and appreciation for their willingness, yes their desire, to cooperate with us in our teacher training programs.

During the past few years we have made arrangements with uni-

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

versities in the province to recognize certain training at Teachers' College whereby student teachers, upon graduation from Teachers' College with an average of 65 per cent or more, will receive university credit on four courses, French, English, history, and one professional course as credits towards the Bachelor of Elementary Education or Bachelor of Teaching degree.

In the same manner arrangements have been finalized with universities to accept our two-year graduates in home economics and our two-year graduates in teacher training from the Technical Institute and give them the necessary courses in the humanities, leading to a recognized degree. This would not have been possible, however, without the cooperation of the university authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make special mention of our two-year regular academic course at Teachers' College. In June of this year we will graduate from Teachers' College the first class from this group. This is a most difficult course and a most efficient one. Upon successful completion of the course teachers will have earned 10 university credits. The work is a combination of academic and professional studies and is given in cooperation with the university.

Several of the courses are given by the faculty of Teachers' College but they write the university examinations and the examinations are marked by the university personnel. Other courses are given at the university and still others taught at Teachers' College by university faculty members. These graduates will be in great demand as secondary teachers in our junior high school programs. We are most pleased with the success of this new venture.

From our experience in the field of teacher training we are convinced of the need for an expanded program at the elementary and primary levels. Surely all will agree that the work of a primary or intermediate teacher is equally important with that of a high school teacher and that we must take immediate steps to meet our univer-

sity friends in an effort to provide ways and means of offering a two-year course in Teachers' College for those teachers with appropriate university credit to be granted towards a Bachelor of Elementary Education degree.

To be more definite, it is my hope that in the very near future we may be able to offer a two-year course at Teachers' College for primary and elementary teachers and that the work at Teachers' College may be acceptable for university credit.

We may have to offer this course on an optional basis for a few years, but I feel the time is approaching when we must require a minimum of two years of training for teachers. It is only by increasing the qualifications of our teachers that we can increase the educational standards of our young people. Then, too, the prestige of the profession will be enhanced and will encourage young people to make teaching a career.

In case it is not general knowledge I wish to advise you the Department of Education makes non-interest bearing loans to student teachers as follows: \$600 for the one-year course; \$1,000 for the two-year course.

These loans are recovered from the teachers' government grants. If an individual leaves the province to teach elsewhere any balance of the loan is repayable according to the regulations. Our record of collections is very satisfactory.

I feel this loan must be extended to teachers taking the Bachelor of Education degree. This is a full year of work in advance of the regular four years required for a B. A. or B. Sc. degree. I, therefore, shall introduce an amendment to the Schools Act to permit the granting of loans to teachers or candidates taking the final year in order to receive a B.Ed. degree. The amount of the loan will be \$600.

When the loan is granted the loanee signs a statement to repay the loan and, I may add, the repayment is also guaranteed by a guarantor. If the legislation is approved, as I hope it may be, we shall work out further details such as having the loanee sign a statement to teach in this province for at least two years.

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

This action has been taken to encourage more well-qualified individuals to enter and remain in the profession. Students may attend any New Brunswick university of their choice where the B. Ed. program is approved. These loans will come into effect with the September 1961 term.

We are also giving consideration to extending the amount of the loans, if necessary, and also to provide some type of outright grant, perhaps as a flat or definite grant or the remission of tuition fees for those taking the final year in either the Bachelor of Education degree course or the Bachelor of Elementary Education course. No doubt you will hear more of this in one year's time.

Our greatest asset is our children. They will soon become the leaders, the senior citizens of tomorrow. This cannot be over-emphasized and their education cannot be neglected. The cost must be considered as secondary to proper instruction. I have already indicated steps we are taking to encourage young people to remain in school, either in the academic course or some other course best suited to individual needs.

The province over the years has taken the lead in the question of consolidations to transport students to high school in consolidated areas. In a number of cases the central school has too few students to carry out a varied program and in other cases too few enrol in so-called vocational courses to make an efficient and economic program.

It is therefore considered absolutely essential that we give thought to a union of small existing consolidations, either to provide a full program or to convey the academic high school students to a central school, and the vocational high school students to a vocational department in a nearby school.

To make this possible I shall introduce legislation to permit the transportation of high school vocational students from a consolidation to a vocational school or vocational department. This is done for two reasons: (1) to enable students to take the course of their choice and

(2) to bring together a sufficient number of students to make it possible to provide good courses in an economical manner.

We are also giving sympathetic consideration to the establishment of central elementary schools. This will provide departmentalized instruction and in many cases will reduce the number of teachers required, as the children from six or more small local schools may be accommodated in one three or four-classroom building, thus reducing the cost and freeing teachers for service elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I can anticipate nothing but support for such a program — a program which is both educationally and financially attractive to ratepayers, parents, children and teachers.

I regret that time does not permit me to explain in more detail all our ambitions with respect to the teacher situation or to the work of other branches of the Department of Education. I must, however, ask your indulgence in order that I may briefly comment on the work of other departments not previously mentioned in my remarks.

In the first place let me refer to the Adult Education and Fitness Branch. There is an increasing public interest in the problem of physical fitness. The New Brunswick Command, Royal Canadian Legion, with close assistance from the Adult Education and Fitness Branch, completed the first year of its physical fitness and sports efficiency program. Approximately 15,000 school boys and girls participated and this is recognized as one of the outstanding programs in Canada. It is an effort to develop a sound body to house a sound mind.

Evening adult physical education programs are underway in Fredericton, McAdam and Andover, with more to follow. This summer some 60 high school boys and girls will be selected to attend the first provincial Athletic Leadership Training Camp. This is sponsored by the Legion and administered by our staff. The camp is designed to develop leadership qualities and to produce skills.

During the present school year this branch was involved in nine

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

courses for coaches and officials in basketball, hockey, volleyball and swimming, with 250 in attendance; one provincial course in drama with 93 in attendance; three general courses for representatives of Indian Reserves with 60 in attendance; three courses in various phases of adult education with 90 in attendance, and a number of courses in physical education for classroom teachers.

In August the branch will be conducting the first Vacation School of the Arts. The 10-day program will offer courses in music, drama, painting and folk dancing.

In the field of music, 42 music festivals were held last summer with approximately 40,000 students participating. This will be increased during the coming months. We now have 65 full time music teachers in our schools while 10 years ago the number was six.

During July and August last year a special summer school course in music was held at Mount Allison University. This course carried credit for Certificate One.

We are presently taking steps to add two specialists to this branch in the field of adult education. This program will be non-vocational in type to compliment the program of the Vocational Education Branch, and the major fields of endeavor will be:

Leadership training projects of many kinds, involving both the voluntary and professional leaders active in the province; cooperative projects; night school classes; pre-vocational courses, and reference or referral source.

You have heard and will hear more of the activities to be undertaken by the new Department of Youth and Welfare. I can assure you this new department will in no way conflict with the work of the Department of Education. It will simply supplement our activities and the final result can mean only a greater effort and more effective assistance in all levels of social and educational activity.

Central Library Services — This department or branch is an essential part of our total educational program. During the year the towns

of Dieppe and Shediac, the county of Westmorland and the village of Port Elgin joined the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library. This regional library now includes public libraries in Moncton, Hopewell Cape, Shediac, Dieppe, Dorchester and Port Elgin. Two bookmobiles serve the rural parts of the region.

The York County Regional Library continues to function throughout the county and a book mobile makes regular visits to all areas of the county. I am pleased to report that this unit has now received a second grant from the Canada Council as a pilot project.

During the year Central Library Services received, catalogued and classified over 14,000 books; over 37,000 books were mailed to over 5,000 borrowers in the province. This is ample evidence of the service we are rendering to all areas of the province in providing books for individual readers, study groups and schools. In fact, over 290,000 books are now available for readers in the province and the quality of the books demanded speaks well for the desire of all readers to increase their knowledge through this medium.

Correspondence School — This school continues to function with unabated enthusiasm. It was predicted the need for services of the New Brunswick Correspondence School would grow less as the facilities for education became more accessible in all sections of the province. This has not been the case and there is a steady growth in the number of students requiring our service.

Education is contagious. We now have more papers being received than ever before. The increase over last year is in excess of 1,300.

It is also worthy of note that 387 teachers use our material and lesson plans to keep them in their classroom activities.

We have greatly extended the assistance to French-speaking students. We have encouraged superior high school students to take, through correspondence, an additional course not offered in their schools. This, too, is an essential part of our total program.

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

Audio Visual Bureau — With the introduction of the two-year course at Teachers' College it became necessary to move this branch to the Lemont Building on Campbell Street. These quarters, as we have them at present, are inadequate to serve our needs, but we hope to correct this within a few weeks. The present cramped quarters make it impossible to render full service to student teachers at Teachers' College in teaching all student teachers how to operate a projector and use educational films to advantage.

In spite of definite handicaps we have in our Audio-Visual library over 3,900 titles and over 7,000 films. During the past year this branch provided films for 37,514 screenings to a total audience of 2,175,438. In addition, our filmstrip holdings amount to over 3,000 and over 1,600 were booked during the year.

This branch is responsible for our radio programs to schools and are well received by the general public. I am most happy to report the program "Junior School Music", originating in Saint John, was granted an honorable mention by the Ohio Institute for Education by radio and television.

While we have not been too actively engaged in education by television we are alert to its possibilities and keeping abreast of thinking in this field. We must never become complacent but always be ready to grasp any additional medium for learning when programs are efficient and costs will warrant our active participation.

School Book Branch — This branch continues to render efficient service with a small staff. Last July we shipped out 436,579 books to schools and dealers throughout the province. These texts had a total value of \$334,915. We have taken steps to ensure a greater care of these texts in our schools and the result has been most gratifying.

In this respect I wish to inform all members of this house that we are presently considering ways and means of reducing the costs of high

school texts to parents. I am not prepared at this time to make any final recommendations, but I can assure you we are considering all angles of the costs of high school texts in an effort to reduce costs to the parents.

The only information or suggestion I can make is a twofold one. Is there a possibility of government subsidization and, again, may costs be reduced by a more uniform course of study and texts in the Atlantic provinces? We are working actively in this field and I can assure you we anticipate that our efforts will be crowned with success.

School Building Planning — An increase in school population of between 5,000 and 6,000 each year calls for an increase in the number of classrooms. Many surveys of local school districts and consolidated school districts have been undertaken because of the trend to central elementary schools and central high schools, with the resulting closing, where practical, of one-room elementary school buildings.

It is felt that in areas which are so geographically situated this plan can be carried out economically and much improvement effected in pupil accommodation and instructional standards.

During the year approximately 183 classrooms were erected on which government grants were paid. These may be summarized as follows:

Seventeen new elementary buildings with a total of 76 classrooms; 11 additions to elementary buildings with a total of 28 classrooms; 10 basement and furnace installations; 23 installations of sanitary facilities in existing buildings; 12 projects involving electric wiring; eight new rural high schools with a total of 47 classrooms; three additions to regional high schools with a total of 10 classrooms; four urban school projects involving the addition of 22 classrooms.

In a great majority of these projects it meant complete surveys of the area to determine per-school children, centers of population and attendance at ratepayers' meetings.

Grants paid on the above mentioned projects totalled almost \$1,000,000.

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22

School financing has become a major item in the work of school building planning. During the year a total of \$3,405,500 in serial and term debentures was marketed on behalf of 41 school boards. In fact, one official of this department is now municipal bond co-ordinator.

This is a new venture to assist all municipalities to place their bonds on the market at the most appropriate time and efforts to date have resulted in the saving of many thousands of dollars to the ratepayers of this province.

This is but another effort on behalf of my department to co-operate with all schools and municipal authorities in their local education and financial problems.

Transportation of Pupils — This is rapidly becoming a major activity in our educational program. The following statistics will emphasize the importance of this activity: Number of conveyances operated per day, 554; number of pupils conveyed per day, 25,798; miles operated per day, 15,987; operating costs for the year, \$1,157,277.

I wish at this time to pay tribute to our school bus drivers. We have not had one major accident and it is our hope to maintain this enviable record. It is for this reason we now demand that all school bus drivers pass driver examination tests. We cannot afford to place the lives of our children in jeopardy.

Legislative Library — The year 1959-1960 was a busy and interesting one in the Legislative Library. The Library was extensively used for reference work by members of the Legislature, civil servants, students, writers and research workers, as well as by the general public.

Requests for information came by letter, by telephone and by personal application. Many of these requests required considerable research, and it is becoming more and more necessary for members of the library staff to have as broad an education and training as possible.

During the year the library added many books, periodicals and documents to its growing and valuable collection. Documents were received on exchange, to the value of thousands of dollars, from the provinces

of Canada, the federal government, some of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and the United States government.

A number of important additions were made to the rapidly growing New Brunswick collection, both new and out of print books. Perhaps the rarest New Brunswick item was Sage's "The Restigouche and Its Salmon Fishing", published in Edinburgh in 1888.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at length on the work of various branches of my department. I must summarize my remarks in stating that education is a growing and expanding enterprise. We anticipate no recession. In fact, if we are to maintain our present services, yet alone expand to meet greater demands and greater numbers, our yearly budget must increase each and every year. Not only will operating costs increase, but we are faced with capital expenditures. If our objectives re the more efficient training of teachers is to become a reality we must have increased space and more modern facilities.

In the realization of our objectives to meet present and future needs in education I challenge all members of this house, regardless of political favor, to stand united in the crusade for higher educational standards to meet the demands of a continually changing society.

Yes, we may differ in many policies and practices, and this is only natural, but surely we can stand as one in the interests of education which, after all, is the foundation on which our democratic freedom is based.

In conclusion, I am pleased to announce that plans for the erection of the new Trade and Technical School in Bathurst are proceeding satisfactorily and construction will commence this year.

Further announcements of additional trade and technical schools and their locations will be forthcoming on completion of a comprehensive study being undertaken at this present time.

In order to combat our chronic unemployment problem and to provide upgrading and retraining in trade schools the Schedule "M" program for unemployed persons will be made available with living

Hon. Mr. Irwin — March 22
allowance to all who have the necessary qualifications and who wish to avail themselves of training under this program. The only limiting factors will be those of facilities and instructional staff. It must be understood that allowances will be paid only to those who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

May I go forward with strength and determination to higher goals of achievement.

Thank you.

Mr. BISHOP continued the debate, saying:

Mr. Speaker:

May I join those who have preceded me in extending to you congratulations on your appointment to the high position you now hold.

I am happy to extend the good wishes of our people of Queens County and myself to His Honour Lieutenant-Governor J. Leonard O'Brien and Mrs. O'Brien. We wish them many years of good health.

I congratulate Hon. Louis J. Robichaud on becoming Premier of this province. I know his tenure of office will be short, but he will at least be able to say after the next election, "Well, I was Premier for a little while".

To our Leader, Mr. C. B. Sherwood, I extend my congratulations. I am sure, Sir, that all will agree that he has proven beyond doubt in a short time his great ability as a leader.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote now from an article — a very important article — in Monday's Telegraph Journal, March 20. The heading is "WALTER WILLIAMS"

"Minto's modest 17-year-old track star, inked his name into national record books Saturday. The Canadian juvenile cross-country champion galloped to a 4:30.8 one-mile win in the Canadian Legion-sponsored Indoor Track and Field Championships at Winnipeg. With his win in the mile and second place in three-mile event, Williams gained runner-up position behind Toronto's dynamic Bruce Kidd as the meet's 'Most Outstanding Athlete'."

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate this young man from Queens County, his family and all those who assisted in his training and development as a competitor in track events. Certainly the highest commendation must go to this young man himself since no amount of training and sponsoring can be successful unless there is in the athlete himself the great will and determination to compete and win.

The example set will bring honor to Queens County and the province as a whole. It will also add great stimulation to sports activities in general in this province.

Mr. Speaker, while the performance of our duties with the greatest degree of excellence at our command demands a thorough enunciation of constructive and critical comment, which occasionally invites tempers to rise, we must view these matters in the overall picture of our purpose and realize that the people of New Brunswick are best served if the government and opposition parties display no reluctance in performing their respective tasks, restricted only by the bounds of fairness and truth.

Perfect governments and perfect oppositions may never exist, but as far as the opposition is concerned we certainly intend to try. One of the saddest incongruities in history is that man can invent plans to put a rocket into space, or construct unforgettable edifices, but governments have not solved the important relationship between the increasing labor force and the job-providing agencies of our economy.

Except in wartime, the growing labor force has outstripped the employment opportunity in almost every field of our provincial economy. A number of reasons appear to be responsible. These include lack of education and training for an increasing segment of the labor market which cannot adapt to the technical requirements of available industrial opportunity.

While technological improvements in production, construction and marketing have made valuable contributions to our gross national product, they have also been reflected in reduced demands for employees. New techniques, improved equip-

Mr. Bishop — March 22

ment and procedures enable those engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing to produce adequate, abundant, and even over-abundant supplies of primary products with less manpower.

Legislation designed to correct situations of this kind is too often ineffective or non-existent. Our political aims and objectives too frequently are defined by windy speeches and useless platitudes.

It is to the credit of our economy that the number of job opportunities increases. It is to be regretted that even as the achievements in scientific study outstrip our most optimistic expectations, so, too, do the number of jobless people outnumber the increasing supply of jobs.

The changing complexion of the labor market potential indicates even now the future demand is for highly trained personnel and skilled employees. For the unskilled or semi-skilled laborer, present employment opportunities are less than fair, and the future prospects are even less encouraging. Training facilities for these people have improved considerably over the past few years and future plans are encouraging.

In the wake of predictions by our leading economists we must regard the commendable steps we have taken only as a beginning. The need to obtain full benefit of the federal cost-sharing legislation and sharply increase our training programs is self-evident.

The demand for engineers, executive and administrative staffs, people trained in science and applied sciences, seldom reaches below the constant supply. To project the past demand for skilled tradesmen and artisans into the future, in the light of Canada's expanding economy, indicates a bright, new hope for these people.

But what of the farmers, fishermen and lumbermen? What of these people, who are the backbone of our New Brunswick economy, caught in the current of technical change? Farmers living on small family farms are competing for markets with large mechanized farms operating at optimum capacity on 640-acre spreads.

These larger farms are producing, at lower cost, sufficient food stuffs to reach available markets at their price peak and they leave the family farmer, caught in the cost price squeeze, the tag ends of the market. The increased gasoline tax even tightens the squeeze.

Lack of an adequate increase in market demand, large supply, poor and fluctuating market conditions and our chronic transportation problems indicate little possibility of our agriculture industry attaining the high degree of development to which it was heading during the last eight years.

Unless the government revises its policies of retrenchment and increased gasoline taxes the prognosis for the small family farmer is not encouraging.

For the small lumber operator, a highly competitive market, high cost of operation, a poor and fluctuating price yield create the paradoxical situation where we have poor woodworkers living in the midst of a vast forest wealth.

Mr. Speaker, coming from a county from which a great many of our people depend on their livelihood from the forests, I would like to speak for a few minutes on this particular subject. Our forests in New Brunswick are our greatest natural resource and should at all times be considered as such.

I have listened to some of the speakers from the northern part of our province with great interest. I am sure, Sir, that they are advocating what they believe to be right and in the best interest of their people and if what they say is true, as far as low prices being paid for pulpwood cutters, I most heartily agree with them.

My belief, Mr. Speaker, as far as prices of pulpwood are concerned, is to have plenty of competition. I believe if we have enough companies with mills in our province to use our annual growth of wood and it is not controlled by any one company in any particular part of our province that the price of wood and the wages paid in respect thereof is bound to increase.

This government at this time has an opportunity to show to the people of this province just what their stand is in this regard. It is