Guest Speaker May 16/66

Students Hear Hon. W. G. Davis

Saturday's Lakehead University Convocation speaker, Hon. William G. Davis outlined a program of higher education calling for greater co-ordination of academic with practical study.

At 36, he is the youngest member of the provincial cabinet where he has the combined posts of education and university affairs minister.

He said there are now twice as many taking post-secondary education as there were five years ago. The figure will double in another 10 years.

He listed a number of reasons for the sudden boom in higher education including "tremendous expansion in the types of programs offered beyond high school level."

The minister called for a change of attitudes regarding university education, saying there must be a move away from thinking of academic study as "better" than technically-oriented study.

He said attention must be given to all those seeking higher education and that pure academic study is not the best avenue for all.

"It takes more than an academically educated elite to run society." In this respect he praised Lakehead University for having developed on-campus facilities for vocational diploma programs as well as degree courses.

He also noted the developing applied arts and technology schools are aimed at bridging the gap between traditional academic and vocational schools.

But he said where possible there should be a sharing of facilities and staff where academic and vocational schools grow up together.

He added: "We must regard all types of higher education as equal partners in the total education system. Failure to do so would be a waste of human effort."

Mr. Davis gave his address just two years to the date after being appointed to head the university affairs department whose creation he had urged.