

as the legitimate interests of the staff, will not be prejudiced in any changes which may take place. Sir John Wolfenden, the Chairman of the University Grants Committee, is ready to give urgent attention to the establishment of an Academic Planning Board for the new university and I will ask the Board to deal with the Government's undertaking as one of its first tasks. For my part, I intend that this Board should be constituted as a first priority.

I wish to return to the criticism that has been made of the Lockwood Committee for allegedly exceeding its terms of reference by dealing with the location of the new university. I should like the House to be clear on what is meant by "location" as contrasted with "site". The "location" of a university is the region or district in which it is placed, and the "site" is the actual parcel of land within the selected location on which the buildings are erected. It is the practice in Britain for both the location and the site of a new university to be determined by the Government on the advice of the University Grants Committee. As I said earlier, the University Grants Committee had informed the Minister of Finance that a special committee with wide terms of reference would be necessary to deal with the position in Northern Ireland. The Lockwood Committee began its work on the understanding that it would not be

expected - let me emphasise the word "expected" - to recommend any specific location in the event of a second university being found desirable. It was therefore open to the Lockwood Committee to avoid the difficult question of location, but the Committee found that it was not possible satisfactorily to deal with the academic problems of a new university outside the context of location. The Committee at no time gave any indication to the public that it might not consider location, and the fact that much of the evidence voluntarily submitted to the Committee dealt with questions of location, and indeed in some cases with particular sites, demonstrates that there was public expectation of at least a recommendation on location - and especially expectation on the part of the Armagh, Coleraine and Londonderry sponsors, who published their evidence. The Lockwood Committee confirmed that the University Grants Committee not only would not object if the Lockwood Committee dealt with the question of location but that the University Grants Committee would much prefer this course. It was arranged that the University Grants Committee would at a later stage advise only on the selection of an actual site within the location chosen. The Lockwood Committee also confirmed with the Government that for its part the Committee was free to recommend a location if it so desired. Hon. Members should also know that, whereas it is the practice of the University Grants Committee

to make its recommendations on the location and site of a particular university to the Government at Westminster on a confidential basis, the Lockwood Committee has set out in its Report the factors on which its conclusions are based.

The Committee's findings occupy four full pages of the Report. I cannot do more than summarise them. The principal criteria are:-

- (a) There must be an adequate and suitable site of at least 300 acres.
- (b) The location must be one in which development can proceed smoothly and successfully. Here the Committee add that a particular location should not be chosen chiefly for the good it may do to the location chosen.
- (c) The chosen area must be attractive to academic staff and to their families and must rank high in the amenities which it can offer.
- (d) Lodgings must be available in appreciable numbers as financial and material resources must initially be concentrated on academic building.
- (e) There must be an adequate supporting population within reasonable travelling distance to service the new university.

(f) The location must have good communications with other parts of Northern Ireland and with Great Britain, but it must also be sufficiently away from the pull of Belfast to ensure that the character and background of the new university will make it different from Queen's University. The Committee therefore considered where the second university should be located not only from the standpoint of what will be best for the second university but also from the standpoint of the interests of Queen's University in the changing context of higher education in Northern Ireland.

The Committee also says that it is impossible to give a precise weighting to each relevant factor, but that in its concerted view the Coleraine area satisfies its criteria better than any of the other areas considered and that in its opinion the new university will have the best opportunity of a good start and of ultimate success in that area. It is most important to acknowledge that the Committee's judgment is the judgment of able and impartial people of varying backgrounds and experience and that their conclusion was unanimous.

Sites have been offered by the sponsoring bodies in Armagh, Coleraine and Londonderry as well as on behalf of the proposed new city in County Armagh.

The University Grants Committee will however only examine potentially suitable sites in the location decided by the Government. On this remaining question of site the function of the University Grants Committee will, of course, as in Great Britain, be advisory and the final decision, as on the question of location, rests with the Government. This was made quite clear in this House in February 1962 and again in February 1963, when the Minister of Finance announced in the course of debate on university facilities that the final decision rests with the Government.

The problem of establishing a new university in Scotland last year was also made difficult by the claims of several areas. Ayr, Cumbernauld (a new town), Dumfries, Falkirk, Inverness, Perth and Stirling had all made their claims. The decision in Scotland also was a Government decision but, following custom in Great Britain, was based on the confidential advice of the University Grants Committee. The decision was announced to Parliament in a written reply to a question. Subsequently dissatisfaction was expressed by members from Scotland. Their case was that it was a red-letter day for Scotland and that at the very least a press conference should have been arranged. There were, of course, differences of opinion in Scotland as to where the university should be placed, but when the decision was announced the emphasis

changed to general support for the new university. To quote the Hon. Member for Kilmarnock, whose area had not been chosen - "We should now put our wrangles behind us. The decision has been made, so let us make the best of it. And let us hope that all the enthusiasm that went into the claim for the various sites will now help to make Stirling a worthy addition to our older universities".

I should like also to take up again the point in the White Paper about Magee University College, and also to deal more fully with the proposal of the Government to promote in Londonderry an important centre of non-university education which will have the dual advantages of satisfying the growing demands for such type of education and with that end in view of utilising the considerable resources of that part of the Province. At this stage I cannot, of course, say anything which would interfere with the exercise of the functions of the Trustees of Magee University College, the Academic Planning Board of the new university and the Londonderry County Borough Education Committee. But I have suggestions which I shall ask them to consider. The Lockwood Committee and the Morris Committee both have pointed to the need for the establishment of a residential centre for Adult Education and in a recent debate the idea received general encouragement from both sides of the House. Such a centre could well be established

in Londonderry and could, together with extra-mural work, become part of the organisation of the new university.

There has been recent criticism that Londonderry City has not received its fair share of Government projects. This has already been disproved by other Ministers. I would add that present capital expenditure in hand and planned for Londonderry on school building amounts to £1,800,000. This is roughly 10 per cent of the total capital expenditure on school building for the whole of Northern Ireland. On a school population basis Londonderry accounts for less than 5 per cent - in other words, over the next few years capital investment in school building in Londonderry will be running at more than twice the rate for the whole of Northern Ireland. The work in hand for extending the Londonderry Technical College alone is costing £350,000. This was arranged before the Lockwood Report became available.

Although the number of students of age 18 and over in full-time further education in Northern Ireland rose from 900 in 1959 to 1,400 in 1963, the Lockwood Committee considered that Northern Ireland requires a very substantial further increase and that provision should be made for at least 4,000 places by 1980. There will, therefore, be further provision in Londonderry as the require-

ments of the Lockwood Report are worked out. The pace and nature of these developments must, of course, depend in part on the Education Committee. I said earlier that without an adequate supply of technicians we cannot expect modern industry to be attracted to Northern Ireland. More industry must be attracted to Londonderry, and this is the way to attract it. Remember that every technologist needs three or four technicians to back him up and that the Lockwood estimate of 4,000 places by 1980 is a minimum.

The Government at Westminster announced last week that no more additional universities would be needed in Great Britain for about ten years, with one exception. But the plans to build a new university in Northern Ireland will not be affected by the decision in Great Britain. Everything, however, points to the need for urgency in case there should be any further economic setback which could affect our plans for the second university. In several parts of the Report, the Lockwood Committee, for various other reasons, has stressed the need for urgency in the provision of the new university, which should be ready to admit its first students in October, 1968. There is no time to be lost if this aim is to be achieved. If we do not achieve it we must face the fact that many students who

have qualified for university training will not be able to secure a place.

It is our duty and our privilege to take the vital decision now which will ensure that as the demand for university places increases in the years ahead, as increase it is bound to do far beyond what any of us thought to be likely only a few years ago, we shall have the places available in a new 20th century university established in new surroundings, with a new outlook and new ideas which will meet and reflect the needs of the times.