

School spending: MP explains cuts

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Burton MP Mr Ivan Lawrence said there will be 2m fewer school pupils, nearly a quarter of the school population, by 1990.

No Government could continue spending at the same level for fewer pupils because it would take money away from other needy areas such as the care of the old and sick, housing, defence, law and order or jobs.

Speaking at the Commemoration and Prize giving at Denstone College, he said the Government had, in state

education, got the lowest ever pupil-teacher ratio and the highest ever level of spending per pupil.

"We expect our children to leave school having learned to speak properly, to think clearly, to be able to read and write, to do simple mathematics, respect other people's property and rights, the rule of law, to show

self control and discipline, to have some idea how the economy works and how our society and its institutions operate.

CONCERN

"Sadly there is a great deal of concern that in many schools in Britain this is simply not happening, so we are having to do something about it."

The best investment to be made was in the proper education of children and there were new proposals to improve the quality and effectiveness of new and existing teachers by assessment and more in-service training.

There was also a need for a more relevant curriculum to make better use of the untapped skills in Britain, such as girls who, given the chance, would be good at sciences.

The Government was committed to helping the independent sector, too.

The assisted places scheme had helped independent schools survive and given poorer children the chance of a good education.

PROUD

"The scheme has helped 20,000 children to get the best possible education."



● Ivan Lawrence... a great deal of concern'

Turning to Denstone he said the school should be proud of its achievements and everyone who had worked so hard to get results deserved congratulations.

For those who had not won prizes, he said neither Einstein or Churchill had won prizes and he had three lips for school leavers.

They should try to use common sense, be enthusiastic about everything they did and care about others in society if they wanted others to care for them.