

Manpower and Immigration Council

technology. It also provides many immigrants with the opportunity to adjust themselves to our manpower needs. But, there still is a great need in Canada for skilled labour. The three tours I have made this summer to the northern and western regions of Canada have provided me with a good deal of evidence that our development could be improved further and faster if the necessary skilled labour were available today. The areas most in need of skilled labour today are in our far north, and especially in our mines. No doubt a review of the departmental policies would reveal to what extent these policies have been successful and what gaps still exist. Members of this house are hopeful that the council and boards which are to be established by the forthcoming legislation will assist in meeting any shortcomings and in filling the gaps.

In this great effort of our government to improve the living standard of our citizens, voluntary organizations in the past—and I hope this will continue in the future—have played a useful role. This has been a characteristic of the Canadian way of life. If past achievements are any guarantee for the future, it is safe to say that voluntary organizations in the field of education and counselling, of immigrants especially, will play a very helpful role in improving our society.

Basic to the success of the program of the department is the provision of adequate teaching facilities for the English or French languages and for the upgrading of the skills of the immigrant. I hope the minister soon will make a statement to clarify the future role of voluntary agencies which are doing a great service to our country. I should like to pay tribute to these organizations and the people behind them. I wish this evening to acknowledge the achievements of, and express my gratitude to Rev. Joseph Carraro of Toronto, the founder of "Costi" which is the term used in respect of the Italian Educational Centre. This centre was founded in 1961 and was granted a provincial charter in Ontario in 1962.

The president of "Costi" this year is Alderman Caccia of the city of Toronto. "Costi" has offices also in Hamilton and Oakville. An average of 7,000 people each year receive training and counselling services at "Costi". Its annual budget is approximately \$145,000. A provincial grant of \$6,000 annually has been matched by the federal government for the past few years. This year, however, the provincial grant to "Costi" will be \$8,000. I

[Mr. Haidasz.]

hope the federal government grant will be given this year without any further delay.

The additional funds which are necessary to keep this worthy centre operating come from private donations, the Workman's Compensation Board and the Italian government. This centre is rendering services in the field of English language classes, apprenticeship training, upgrading of skills, rehabilitation and counselling, above all, to the special group of young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years. I should like to say that it is desirable that more federal funds be made available to such organizations.

I believe there are now in Canada 200 manpower centres of which approximately half a dozen are in Toronto. This evening may I draw to the attention of the minister the fact that there is a need to increase the professional staff in the Toronto manpower centres. There is still a great need for adequate translation services. There is also a need for sufficient people who have an inexhaustible patience and a great deal of sympathy for the poor immigrant who comes to the manpower centre for help. There is also need to tell Canadian industry it should not put too much stress on the necessity for immigrants to have Canadian experience.

I do not believe the policy or the philosophy of the Canada Manpower Act is so strict that the skills and education that the immigrant has acquired in his home country should be disregarded. When I interned at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto and at other hospitals I saw doctors, dentists and other skilled persons doing menial jobs. It is unfortunate that such skills and professional services are not used quickly and properly.

I hope these few remarks I have made this evening will reach the ears of the minister and that they will help him further improve his great program of Canada manpower centres which has contributed so much to our economy.

• (8:40 p.m.)

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that now, when the bill on the Canada manpower and immigration council, together with advisory boards and regional and local manpower committees, is being introduced is the time we should draw to the attention of the minister, before things become too fixed in this new direction, those things which we discovered during the recess.