

Adult Occupational Training Act

embalmers. I hope the minister and his officials will consider helping young lads like these. This field of training ought to be included in the bill. There would not be a heavy drain on the treasury because I am sure not too many young men have entered this profession. Few members of the House, so far as I am aware, are members of the profession. However, it is an honourable profession and we should prepare young people to enter it. Actually, they would come in handy in burying this government after the next election which is no doubt to take place in a few months.

I agree with the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) who suggested that provision for language training should be included in the bill. I think that is an excellent idea for the simple reason that I supported the official languages bill. It has great merit. But I also agree with the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) and others who have said that the official languages program is moving too quickly. Hon. members of other parties have suggested that the program is being force-fed to the public service and as a result B and B—bilingualism and biculturalism—has for those people become another sort of B and B—loss of bread and butter. Some public servants cannot continue filling jobs which require the use of both languages.

In Cape Breton, particularly, I understand that there are to be four or five vacancies in the public service. An eligibility list was drawn up and came into effect in December. On June 15 next that list is to be eliminated. Those who have been tested in connection with public service vacancies and who have passed their examinations are no longer to be eligible. We know that these lists are valid for one year and, as I said, the current list is to be eliminated on June 15. The competition in that case required employees to be unilingual and speak English only. I understand that public servants to fill those vacancies are to be selected from the previous list which required public servants to be bilingual. I think 23 applicants previously qualified for these jobs. Today I asked the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) what I, as the member representing the area, am to say to the people who will be discriminated against and who will not get the jobs even though they were previously considered eligible.

I am pleased to note that widows are covered by the bill. Often, in the area I come from and in the area in which the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) resides, men become disabled and die, sometimes after long illness contracted in the coal mines, in the steel plant or in the fishing industry. Perhaps the man catches tuberculosis; sometimes he contracts silicosis. The compensation board in Halifax does not recognize silicosis as an illness coming under its jurisdiction. Often, because the man concerned cannot obtain compensation from the board, the wife or widow as the case may be must go out and work. There is great hardship in these cases. I am glad the minister has broadened the scope of the bill and made changes encompassing widows. He is to be commended for that.

I could mention a few other points but will relinquish the floor to other hon. members who wish to put their thoughts on record and persuade the minister to make
[Mr. Muir.]

changes. In discussing the bill, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Mackasey) is reported to have termed the total package as a series of efforts to improve what is already perhaps the world's finest manpower program. I do not agree, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure many other hon. members do not agree with that statement. None the less, I commend the minister for what he is doing, and in the short time during which he will remain minister I look forward to changes which may be introduced in legislation of this type. The minister is a man with whom one can discuss problems. He will give you a really good hearing and act, if action can be taken. It is unfortunate that other members of the cabinet have not learned a lesson from the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Dinsdale: There you are, Bryce; there's a compliment for you.

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Mackasey) hopes to finish this afternoon the discussion on this stage of the bill. Although we will not delay it, I do not think debate on this stage will be finished by four o'clock.

May I mention briefly one or two items of interest to Canadian workers. These may affect future training in certain fields. I draw to the minister's attention the fact that earlier this week, at an oil seminar, it was suggested that if an oil pipeline is constructed down the Mackenzie valley, 6,000 workmen will be required to build it. Many of those workers will need special skills. Since much of this pipeline is to be built far from our cities in the south, it is hoped that some of the work can be done by people indigenous to the northern area. These people will need to be trained. Perhaps they can benefit from on the job training. I call this matter to the minister's attention because we ought to look ahead to employing such people.

Such a pipeline, if built, would be a big project in Canada. It would be too bad if through lack of trained manpower in Canada workers from another country were employed on the building of the pipeline. I suggest to the minister that it might be wise if he were to begin considering this problem. Even if the Mackenzie valley pipeline is not built, obviously other pipelines will be built in our north country. Special skills will be required. Workmen will be living and working in extreme cold. They will need special skills if they are to work under such conditions. I suggest to the minister that we ought to look ahead and anticipate what will be required in this respect.

While considering the Mackenzie valley pipeline, let us remember that if the pipeline is built, about one million tons of steel pipe will be needed. Someone must make the pipe. We hope that Canadian factories will make a good proportion of it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not know whether the hon. member feels that what he is saying is related to the principle of the bill before us. Personally, I have some doubt.

• (1550)

Mr. Thomson: May I carry on for just a minute, Mr. Speaker? We shall require a considerable amount of training for work in the mills which manufacture pipe. This is