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CANADA'S FUTURE LABOUR FORCE

Addressing the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa on May 26, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Michael Starr, announced that on May 29 all the provinces of Canada, together with the Yukon and Northwest Territories, would "begin observances of Commonwealth Technical Training Week". "The Federal Government is keenly interested in technical and vocational training as the principal means of developing a skilled work force," Mr. Starr said. "The Prime Minister is particularly interested in this field, not only with respect to Canada but with regard to our responsibilities towards developing countries."

Mr. Starr devoted the body of his address to a description of the Government's technical-training policy, as follows:

"...In his address before the United Nations last year, the Prime Minister cited the importance of establishing a bank of experts to help developing countries to create a trained work force and increase their standard of living. The importance of such a venture is becoming increasingly apparent.

"Canada has never trained enough skilled workers for our own needs, much less providing assistance for other countries.

"Early this year, His Excellency, the Governor General proclaimed the week of May 29 to June 4 as Commonwealth Technical Training Week in Canada and urged Canadians in all walks of life to take an active interest in the observance and the objectives of the Week.

TRAINING WEEK AIMS

"Briefly, the broad objectives of the Week in Canada are:

1. To create more public awareness of the excellent career opportunities which exist in technical, trade and other vocational fields.
2. To stimulate the establishment of more apprenticeship and other 'in-plant' training programmes. I might point out that only 26 per cent of the firms engaged in important manufacturing industries are operating formal apprenticeship programmes.
3. To convince young people of the necessity of planning a career and staying in school until graduation, and to impress upon parents and youth the importance of education to a person's employment security.
4. To encourage adults to upgrade their skills and improve their education, and to stimulate the establishment of more adult education and training programmes related to the world of work. In spite of the fact that a number of provinces operate education and training programmes to assist adults to further their training and education, less than five per cent of unemployed persons have applied for re-training. About 7,000,000 adult Canadians have not completed high school. Many have not had the benefit of elementary education.
5. To bring those groups directly and indirectly concerned with education and training closer together for the general benefit of the country.

(Over)