

Business of Supply

high marks. There should be more stress on character and responsibility, and less stress merely on high marks. It has never been proven to my satisfaction that in the practice of medicine the average student suffers in any way when his performance is compared with that of the better than average student. Admitting average calibre students would qualify many more students to enter the medical field.

The third point I wish to raise about the shortage of medical manpower has to do with the statement the minister made about the uneven distribution of doctors. For example, the Minister of Health and Welfare said that if you had a sore throat in Vancouver three specialists would be waiting for you. It is true that the proportion of specialists to general practitioners in this country has been increasing during the last few years. Thirty years ago the ratio was one specialist to every ten general practitioners. Today, the ratio is one specialist to every general practitioner. We must remember that in the medical field we are now doing highly specialized work not even thought of 20 years ago which needs highly trained doctors to carry it out. Has the minister even thought of consulting with his provincial counterparts? Has he thought of discussing this problem with the universities? Would a doctor be a better specialist if he put in five years as a general practitioner?

The government criticizes but co-operates little in working out our problems. Instead, it cuts back health resources programs which were passed by this house in a supposed effort to help cure the medical manpower shortage. I ask the government to get off its criticizing pedestal. It ought to help us solve some of our medical manpower problems and not help to create them.

● (8:20 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, this motion which blames the government for being unable to develop and to retain manpower resources in Canada deals with one of the most important problems of our country and, more particularly, of Quebec.

This province holds a record that is not enviable in the field of unemployment. It has a manpower surplus while it would now need a maximum of development. Indeed, it is paradoxical to discuss the manpower problem when one knows, of course, that our new country owns natural wealth that is practically undeveloped.

This is an unhappy situation. However, no really serious step is taken in order to meet it.

We have been denouncing, for a very long time, a system that leads to such a state of things. If there are people who do understand the problem, it is we, of the Ralliement Créditiste, and like the sponsor of the motion, we regret that the situation is so deplorable.

The manpower centres which I know, those of Quebec and particularly those which serve my area, are almost useless except that they give employment to a few civil servants. This seems to be the only aim of these centres.

When one knows the sometimes detached way in which the manpower counselors welcome the workers in some areas, one might wonder whether they really care to provide with jobs the unemployed or, still, those who do not get any unemployment insurance benefits, which is even worse since they do not receive anything.

I do not blame the civil servants altogether, because it is not they who can create jobs. But I blame them for not reporting unemployment cases or for not putting pressure on senior officials in order to induce them to bring at least partial solutions to this problem.

This leads us to try and determine the cause of unemployment. Of course, it would take too much time to elaborate further on this subject but we can still point out some highlights, namely the employment of student manpower which is still of some significance.

If we consider the tremendous number of students who, as soon as the holidays start, would like to find work so as to make a little money and thus participate in the development of the country, then it is not just a matter of money but also a matter of participation.

It is obvious that no one has any intention of giving work just for the sake of giving work because many people receive money without providing any service or any work in return. We have now come to the point where work is often considered degrading. Work should be upgraded and we should find the best means to give some to everyone, and especially to the young, since the real problems which we face now and which we will have to face within a few years stem from there. We are dealing here with one of the most important problems in our history.

If we cannot instil into our young people the love of work, what are we coming to? If we cannot create a sound emulation as to