

Senator Smith: It is obvious that quite a number of women are employed in the Manpower training program recommending people for courses. I live in a small town in which there is a Manpower centre with four counsellors, two of whom are women. There is nothing brand new about it.

Mr. Meyer: No; particularly since the major staff re-orientation took place in 1967 many female counsellors have been engaged. In fact, I have been informed by those in charge of personnel that they show a better staying power than the male counsellors recruited at that time.

Senator Smith: That is also my opinion, based on knowledge of what goes on in our Manpower training centre.

Senator Inman: How many courses may one individual take?

Mr. Meyer: There is no hard and fast rule in that regard, senator.

Senator Inman: Is one course per year available?

Mr. Meyer: No, it is one course of 52 weeks duration. In other words, there is a statutory limit on the duration of the course itself of 52 weeks.

Senator Inman: And another course may be taken during the following year?

Mr. Meyer: This happens many times, particularly in cases where the trainee needs to be brought up to an educational level required to enter a skill course. In many instances we first provide educational up-grading, to a maximum of 52 weeks, in order to meet the Grades 10, 11 and 12 level requirements of the skill courses, which in most instances follow immediately.

Senator Inman: How many courses would an adult be allowed to take, other than the skill courses?

Mr. Meyer: Depending on his need it could be two, namely an educational up-grading course and an occupational or skill course, the one following the other.

Senator Cameron: Have you any idea, even in round figures, of the percentage of students who require up-grading from Grade 7 to Grades 9 and 10?

Mr. Meyer: Approximately one-third of our budget is devoted to educational up-grading.

Senator Yuzyk: Are there many who start these courses with a level below Grade 8?

Mr. Meyer: Yes. It may go down as far as functional illiteracy.

Senator Yuzyk: And the Manpower training program educates them in the grade school in addition to skills?

Mr. Meyer: That is correct.

Senator Yuzyk: That is excellent.

Mr. Meyer: I should make it clear that we do not provide grade school training. We provide so-called educational up-grading in the subjects pertaining to the skill, math, science and communicative skills, but there is no history.

Senator Cameron: I come from the west and am informed that there is a shortage of workers having geophysical training to join field parties. What information have you in that respect? Do you offer geophysical training courses? If so, do you have any idea how many would be taking the subject?

Mr. Meyer: We have provided a fair amount of training, Senator Cameron. The names of the courses escape me, but we have been training those involved in the drilling of the blast holes, the blasting, survey parties and frogmen, particularly in the west and partly in support of the mapping program which is taking place there. It is also to quite an extent in support of oil exploration.

I would have to compile this type of detail. If you desire specific figures for your province, I would be more than happy to provide them.

Senator Cameron: It would be only Alberta, because the geophysical program is rather extensive now, particularly in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Meyer: One of the problems, as I am sure you are aware, is the considerable turnover in such occupations. We hope to train more and more native people, particularly in surveying, which is open-air work in which they perform very well. We have discussed within the department the development necessary in order to give native people full access to the exploration and construction activities which will move forward from northern Alberta into the Mackenzie River Valley.

Senator Cameron: What percentage of native people are taking this training? The complaint we hear is that native people are not being given the chance, that the oil companies are bringing in non-native people from all over the place, and native people are just left sitting there.

Mr. Meyer: We have trained a fair number. I am now speaking from personal experience, having worked in that part of the country. We have trained a fair number of people, but their attractiveness to the employer frequently is not so much skill as their reliability as an employee, as I am sure you know.

Senator Quatt: One of the questions that I had has been answered satisfactorily. But to follow up a question asked by Senator Inman, when we were on the Poverty Committee a senator from New Brunswick knew of a man who had four occupational training courses in an area where there was no hope of employment. Yet he was given an opportunity to attend another training course for another occupation. Does that seem logical? The members of the Poverty Committee who are here know that case was brought up. Afterwards he said, "Very likely this man will try next year, because it is so much easier to live this way and go on and take