

*Correspondence on Surcharges*

into still another machine that carries it automatically through a further process. In some cases the machine is self-regulating—that is, it is set to turn out a product within certain tolerances as to size or other factors, and if those tolerances are exceeded, the machine itself detects the variation and automatically adjusts itself to correct it.

If automation is carried to this extent, then no matter how well we prepare our retraining program it is not going to have much effect on the employment picture with respect to people in a factory which is automatically regulated, automatically operated, where the raw material is automatically fed and where weighing, sizing and so on are done by automatically regulated machines. I believe this leads into a field that the minister has not mentioned at any length, that of forward estimates of manpower requirements. When automation develops to the extent that men are no longer needed in an industry, what are we going to do with these people and how long is it going to be before this type of training must take place?

I think this is a government responsibility. No matter how large any industry is it is not going to be able to decide how fast automation will come to the nation. General Motors may be quite capable of saying how fast it will come about in their plants in a specific area, or some other industry may be able to do the same thing, but I doubt that they are going to be able to decide on a national basis how fast automation will be effected.

In the area from which I come we have seen in the mining field that a form of automation and a high degree of mechanization have eliminated a large number of workers. These people were encouraged and offered many incentives to go to such places as Blind River, Elliot Lake, Yellowknife, particularly communities connected with the uranium industry. Yet we find that in this field the government did no planning at all to make sure that when these workers were transferred from the gold mines and the coal mines they were going to have employment of some duration in the uranium industry. These people made the move. They were displaced. Their families went with them to a new community. In fact, we had to create the communities to which they moved. Yet within a few short years we find these people again being asked to do exactly the same thing, to move from a new community to yet another one and to retrain themselves for new employment.

It is very difficult to decide how much of an upset this creates for the nation, the communities and the families concerned. It is not only difficult for the employee to undergo training when he moves into an industry with which he is not familiar but it is more

difficult for the family because of the necessity of the children changing schools and all the other things that accompany such a move. It is very difficult to assess the cost to the nation of such relocation.

The Minister of Labour is to be congratulated that he has undertaken these worthwhile programs. I believe they are not integrated to any great extent but he has three or four pieces of legislation that he can bring together when the results of the operations of these plans are available. I hope he will then come forward with a national labour code that will govern industry, labour and management and provide for a much clearer picture of what is going to happen in the foreseeable future.

There is another matter to which consideration should be given. It is a problem Canada faces today and over which we have little control. In the canning field there is a very large company which has been almost completely dominated by United States interests. Although the wages in this industry have, in the main, been relatively low and employment not of a continuous nature in it has been decreasing, recent changes have seen the industry itself removed in large measure to the United States.

The controlling interests in this industry have shown no interest whatsoever in the development of Canada and are simply motivated by the financial arrangements which the parent company in the United States finds advantageous by integrating all the operations in the United States. This has resulted in Canada being left practically without a canning industry and it has hurt the people dependent on it in a supplier capacity and in a labour capacity. It has also gravely affected secondary industries which, to a large extent, were dependent on it for their very existence. I believe the minister will soon have to give consideration to legislation supplementary to the present measure and take these factors into consideration.

In my opinion it is not always in our best interests to move people to industry. In many cases I think we should consider moving industry to people, and in areas like Cape Breton island and Kirkland Lake, where a large percentage of industry has already disappeared, it will be necessary for the government to give assistance to the development of industry, that will operate and stay in such areas. These areas which are losing a basic industry already have the towns and the population, and all they need is assistance from the government to get the wheels of secondary industry turning once more. Any measure which the minister