

THE SENATE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Wednesday, November 30, 1960.

The Special Committee of the Senate appointed to study and report upon the trends of manpower and employment, met this day at 11 a.m.

Hon. Leon Méthot in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have a quorum. Let us proceed. We have the advantage of having with us today Dr. J. J. Deutsch, who will tell us what has been done with respect to the problem before us during the recess of Parliament.

Dr. JOHN J. DEUTSCH: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, when your committee was organized late in the previous session you made certain arrangements for work to be done during the summer recess. Two things were done: arrangements were made to get in touch with quite a large number of national organizations and interested groups, from whom the committee wished to hear views on the problem now before it.

About 40 organizations were contacted and were told that the committee would be pleased to receive submissions from them. The great majority of the persons and organizations who were contacted agreed to make submissions to the committee. These were national industrial organizations, such as labour unions, agricultural bodies, and so forth. The first of these organizations to be heard from is the Canadian Chamber of Commerce who will be making its submission to the committee on December 14. At later meetings of the committee other organizations will come forward with their submissions.

The second thing that was done was the preparation of a series of studies which the committee asked me to arrange for and to organize. Arrangements were made to have six studies prepared for the committee, and these have been under preparation during the recent recess. The purpose of these studies was to assist the committee in considering the problems before it.

The first is a general background study of the developments in the Canadian economy which affected employment and unemployment in recent years. This study is to give you a basic, factual background, and to indicate what has been happening in the Canadian manpower picture, both in the past decade and at the present time, and also to indicate to you the places where difficulties have arisen and their nature. This general background study was prepared by Mr. Frank Denton, and will be presented to you this morning.

The second study was on the trends of demand for domestic products and for exports and imports, as well as changes in productivity in the Canadian economy which affect opportunities for employment in the country. This is a basic economic analysis of what has been happening in our economy in recent years and at the present time. This study was undertaken by Professor Hood of the University of Toronto; it is now in its final stages, and can be presented shortly.

A third study that was made had to do with the characteristics of the unemployed at the present time. This study was undertaken by a careful examination of the persons who are applying for jobs at the National Employment