

The Budget—Mr. Hamilton

industry until the necessary changes are made, or until the necessary expansion has taken place. If it is agreed that we urgently need more facilities at our ports in order to export our wheat, our potash, coal, paper, copper as well as other manufactured products, why not exempt the expansion of those facilities until the proper point is reached? It is agreed that in any region or subregion there are unused material resources, or unused manpower resources, why not exempt expansion in those areas? Those are just some of the examples of what I call applying restrictions on a basis of selectivity by region, and by industry.

Second, I should like to propose temporary manpower policies, or, as I like to call them, peaking policies for labour. It is clear to me that, as an inflationary pressure, the single greatest shortage we have today is the shortage of skilled workers in our large metropolitan areas, and in some remote areas. Long-range policies involving education, immigration, retraining of workers, and so on, must go forward. In the meantime let us utilize the reserves of manpower available, which manpower may not be now used, for elementary reasons.

Let me give an example. There is a shortage of nurses in the service field. Yet there are thousands of trained nurses out of the work force, who stay out for various reasons. The obvious reason is that they are married, and must stay at home to look after their children. Surely there could be arrangements made whereby older persons go into the homes of nurses to look after the children, and the homes, so that the nurses may be released for their own work. If a nurse has to go out she has to pay someone to look after her home, her children, and that means paying an experienced housewife. Surely a voluntary registration made under the aegis of the National Employment Service would come up with the fact that many people would be willing to go into nurses' homes to relieve them, and relieve the situation.

The program could be started or stopped at will. That is why I refer to it as a peaking policy to be used at times of pressure on manpower resources.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Any program that is started having regard to nurses can be started in relation to other fields. Another example could be the employees who are needed to work in factories. In some union contracts workers are required to retire at a certain age, and they cannot

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work after that. Surely we should ask the unions to join with the provincial governments, with management and, yes, with the federal tax collector, to work out some temporary arrangement to bring back these older skilled workers, to allow them to fill in for sick employees, to fill in during holidays, and even during periods of shortage of labour. By this means, productivity could be increased at no great cost and there would be a consequent reduction in the threat of inflation. I could give other examples. Let me conclude by saying that in the United States 40 per cent of the women between 25 and 45 are in the labour force. The Canadian figure is 34 per cent. Here is a reserve of available human resources, people who would like to help if they were asked to do so.

Another point I wish to make in a positive policy has to do with a policy on saving. I have figures to show that Canada is the most saving nation in the world: Yet we are short of capital. We have forced people to buy retirement pensions; we have given them incentives to buy retirement pensions. Is it not about time we gave incentives to people to own property and equity shares in the industries of this country? Suppose there were exemptions from income tax in the amount of \$200, \$300 or \$500 in respect of investment in equity ownership. Think what relief from inflationary pressure the additional investment would bring and what a help it would be to people to have a type of savings which would grow with the country and help offset rising costs.

Perhaps we could go further and say that succession duty should not apply to that part of an estate which involves equity ownership, so as to encourage people to invest in this nation's growth. I believe the government would be surprised to learn how many individuals there are who do not like these high prices and who wish to play a part in helping the nation. I believe they would enter into a voluntary savings program if they were given some encouragement. I think their numbers would come as a surprise to those in the Department of Finance and elsewhere who say our people will not save.

We underestimate continually the willingness of the people to participate in the affairs of this nation. I have many other things I should like to say, but I see I have used up my time and I shall only—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am wondering whether the house might give consent to