

*Economic Policies and Unemployment*

exactly what the Department of Manpower and Immigration is doing, not so much reducing immigration. Here, this has a special connotation, I would say, in Quebec; perhaps the hon. member wanted to play politics by nurturing the prejudices we have generally against immigration in Quebec, when we really have not opened the doors of immigration and that in many sectors, nothing much is done to help immigrants, when we consider what the medical profession and other professions require that they be Canadian citizens to get their status, thereby delaying by five years the development of their talents, well, we are left wondering here. But we must think that many provinces, and the country as a whole, which is now made up of 50 per cent immigrants, relied on their talents and on their resources to make the whole country prosperous. That was a good bet; we have been successful in that, and we may wonder what Canada would be today if there were 10 million inhabitants only instead of 20 million.

With respect to the other selection standards, to the other standards established in relation to our present needs, with the whole criteria system to admit immigrants according to our needs, this is exactly the program the government is following so that the suggestion is nothing new in that regard.

It was also suggested—and this problem calls for more attention—that we should busy ourselves to a greater extent with disabled people, what they call in English the “border groups”, and all those who, for one reason or another, cannot benefit from our current programs such as the retraining and hiring of workers, etc.

However, it should be remembered, and this has been pointed out at the time of the federal-provincial conferences, that the provinces are, and rightly so, quite fussy about their jurisdiction and when the social problems related to an economic problem are involved, the provinces say that this is provincial jurisdiction and the federal should keep off.

But the fact remains that, even though the problem of the disabled is primarily a social problem, there is however an economic redundancy, and that, as regards this problem, both government levels should co-operate to establish a program truly suited to those special problems and beneficial to those to whom, for one reason or another, life has not been good and if given the chance can contribute with their energy, their know how,

[Mr. Gendron.]

their desire, to their own well-being, their natural pride. Both governments should try to find short and long term solutions to the retraining problems of this handicapped group.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Few other grievances were pointed out or programs suggested that the government should bring forward as new solutions to the problems we are facing. Once again, there were criticisms but few alternatives were proposed.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) talked about the necessity of planning. This is a fashionable term, today. To paraphrase another poem, one could say: Each talks about planning; you'd be a fool to believe it; nothing's more common than the name, nothing rarer than the thing.

On account of the interrelation of countries, we know that even if the government wanted to set up a Russian-style planning in our country, the program would fail due to our economic interrelations with the United States. First of all, we would have to invite the American government to do the same, then follow, suit and at each level of government, try to establish the radical planning in order to find solutions to our problems.

In my opinion, in our economic system, with our public and political customs, it is best to call on people to realize problems, to make them aware of the problems facing us, and to call on everyone to work hand in hand in search of solutions. Thus, if we call up on this collective conscience, at all levels of government, then on private enterprise to do its share to face our social problems, and particularly the problem of unemployment, there are chances of obtaining much better and quicker results than by establishing huge programs which, at the regional and local levels, are unrealistic and attempting to use more or less dictatorial methods to impose these programs, frustrating people and denying them any initiative or creativity and giving no encouragement to natural talent.

I believe that we must return to these—I would say—all Canadian qualities: the vast spaces, the spirit of pioneers who had great and beautiful visions and who wanted to build in spite of the natural barriers they faced. And I think that we must invite our youths, instead of leaving them to rise in the social scale and sit on their golden laurels, to live up to the Canadian challenge, to live up to the challenge that present international