

existing services of the Division and other departments of government in a meaningful way to achieve the basic goal of helping individuals obtain personally satisfactory employment. It demonstrates the kind of controlled assistance to the disadvantaged which the Committee felt was missing in the Outreach Program.

There is, however, a measure of commitment by the federal government in sponsoring a LEAP project which does not exist in the other short-term job creation programs. This commitment carries with it the responsibility to determine as far as possible that the training received will allow LEAP project workers to sustain themselves as members of the labour force when they leave the sheltered situation of the project. Again in the end it will be the Canada Manpower counsellor who will have the job of referring these protégés of the Division to employers. It is not enough to establish the need for a LEAP project. A full and realistic assessment of the possibilities for successful placement of the participants should form an important part in the preliminary planning.

The direct objectives of the Manpower Division are being met by the expansion of the job creation concept into the concrete area of entrepreneurial activity through the Local Employment Assistance Program. But all the stages of development and operation of projects within this program must be carefully planned and monitored by responsible officers to ensure that the disadvantaged participants can ultimately become self-supporting through regular employment.

The weakness of the LEAP program which Mr. Mackie pointed out should not be minimized. There is every possibility that projects will not become self-sustaining after three years and may therefore become an expensive form of welfare. For this reason particularly LEAP projects should not be restricted to non-profit sponsorship. Projects could also be conducted by the business community if in undertaking such a contract the training employer accepted that the subsidy given by the Division with LEAP funds was provided to train the participants in skills which would provide for continued employment in that business when the grant expired.

LEAP demonstrates the kind of controlled assistance to the disadvantaged which the Committee feels is missing in the Outreach Program. However it is not enough to establish the need for a LEAP project. A full and realistic assessment of the possibilities for successful placement of the participants should form an important part in the preliminary planning.

The Committee recommends that contracts to provide for the establishment and supervision of LEAP projects be extended to suitable profit-making organizations which agree to accept disadvantaged job seekers for a period of training and possibly retain the trainee in employment at the conclusion of the contract training.