

Atlantic Regional Freight Assistance Act

industry that moves into an area to take advantage of incentives. In looking at this particular clause with this in mind, our idea was to have a very close relationship between this department and the Department of Manpower and Immigration. We are of the opinion that this particular clause of the bill should indicate that those industries taking advantage of the incentives provisions should keep in contact with the department throughout the entire time this act is in force.

As was pointed out by the minister at the committee hearings, all of the incentive provisions of the act should not have been applied by 1976. We suggest that changing the word "earlier" to "later" would mean that all the provisions of the act not satisfied at that time would be satisfactorily covered.

● (9:50 p.m.)

It is our position that there must be very close working relationship among departments to ensure that the purpose of the bill is fulfilled to the greatest extent possible. We have experienced too many situations wherein industries have come into an area, taken advantage of concessions granted to them and have then moved out without regard to the unemployment situation created by the removal of their facilities. We hope that under the provisions of the bill, and because of the remarks of the minister, industry will co-operate to the greatest extent and keep itself advised with regard to employment opportunities. As the bill suggests, industry should "discuss with the department the long term plans of the applicant for the recruitment and training of employees in the designated region".

We believe that the amendment we have proposed is in order and should be acceptable to the minister. I see no reason why he should suggest that the amendment would really make two classes of citizens as far as corporations are concerned. I appreciate that this provision concerning employment opportunities should apply to all industry in a growth centre. Industry says it is doing the area a service; at the same time, it is moving in for a specific purpose under the bill and should provide the necessary data to the Department of Manpower and Immigration to ensure that there is available a complete, up-to-date analysis of the employment picture in the area.

I hope the minister will accept the amendment. I do not think it detracts from the bill in any way. It will provide for a much closer working relationship between departments,

and the figures made available would enable one to see whether the purpose of the bill is being carried out to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister to accept the amendment.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak for only a minute or two on the amendment and to add my voice to that of the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg) in asking the minister to give the suggestion very careful consideration. As I read the clause with which we are dealing, it provides that as a condition of the incentives to be paid the firm receiving them, the firm has a duty to keep in touch with the department with regard to its labour force, manpower vacancies and requirements. The firm will also have a duty to discuss with the department the long term plans of the applicants for the recruitment and training of employees in the designate region, and to participate in and co-operate with the department in respect of any programs of the department related to employment counselling, placement and manpower adjustment, mobility and training.

All the requirements laid down are to end, according to subclause 2 of clause 13, when the final payment is made in connection with the development incentives. I have studied this clause with my colleagues and do not see why the minister should consider that it would be a discrimination for the law to say that any firm which benefits from the program and obtains the payments provided under the bill has a duty to inform the department and keep in touch with it with respect to the firm's manpower requirements and training, so long as the law is in force.

This law is to remain in force until December 31, 1967. All we are saying to the minister is that the payment of large amounts of money from the public treasury to private firms and investors should require their co-operation in terms of personnel requirements and training. We say that this requirement should continue beyond the time the last payment is made, if that payment occurs before the end of the period during which the law is to remain in force. This seems to me not only a reasonable but a most desirable situation.

One thinks of Canadian Vickers, for example. True enough, Canadian Vickers was not assisted under a scheme such as the one contained in this bill. But that firm was the recipient of a great deal of federal funds because of the work it performed. Then, it