

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

determined and all those people will be handsomely paid. I do not want to seem naive, but I wonder who will appoint that well-paid group.

In his speech, the minister put partisan considerations aside—as always, I must add—but if you look at the bill closely you will find that it is full of political undertones.

A Canada manpower and immigration council, consisting of a chairman and 15 members, that is 16 members in all, is established. The chairman is appointed to hold office during pleasure for a term not exceeding three years. The members of the council, other than the chairman of the council and the chairmen of the advisory boards must be appointed after consultation with such representative organizations as the governor in council deems appropriate.

All that fine print, after the word consultation, means that politics will have power of veto over the appointment of the chairman and the other members of the council.

We have the same thing here in the case of the advisory boards, all four of them; the advisory board on adult occupational training; the second, the advisory board on the adjustment of immigrants; the third, the advisory board on the co-ordination of rehabilitation services for disabled persons and the advisory board on manpower and immigration research.

Let us have a look at the appointments and be honest with ourselves. I do not hold it against the minister; that is how things have always been done in the house. In the final analysis, the appointments are always political. It is all very well to say that consultations are taking place, but we know what is going on in our ridings. This is nothing new. In my opinion, all commissions previously established, even the unemployment insurance commissions, the former employment and guidance services provided for the unemployed, are so many fine opportunities for a political party to find good positions for its supporters and to run everything.

I would be very happy if once and for all, a new procedure could be devised in order to free those boards from politics and enable them to work conscientiously.

Some of them, even though appointed by the party in power, are conscientious. As a matter of fact, they are staffed by honest people. But others take every opportunity to indulge in what is called petty politics. The first condition for any kind of work to be

[Mr. Gauthier.]

accepted—and I saw this myself—is that it bears the hallmark of the party.

I mention this to the hon. minister although he is well aware of the situation. I am saying that we want this to stop. Let us look for another method. Today, we have the present minister, things will be different tomorrow, partners will change as well as employees and this will have repercussions throughout Canada. And the province of Quebec is far from being an exception, as the hon. minister knows well enough.

I know that as far as appointments are concerned, there is a lot of work to do. This protection must be eradicated from our laws.

All those who were listening to the hon. minister this afternoon for the first time thought the act was wonderful. But beyond the words of the hon. minister—and he is quite convincing—when the concept of the law is considered we still have this same fear that a skilled person will be passed over and an incompetent person appointed. I know that the hon. minister is aware of this. I know that he is interested in this matter and well aware of the situation, because inefficient people are appointed over the heads of qualified people, as the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) said a while ago, people who are completely devoid of tact, who have no social notion whatsoever, and who assume responsibilities for such delicate matters as social welfare laws which we are advocating today.

I should now like to say a word about the committees, especially the adult vocational training committee. This is all very well, we are all quite pleased. This commission now bears a new name for it used to deal with the training of unemployed people. When I was the chairman of the school board in my region, I was the first to set up and implement the first training courses for unemployed people. The terms of reference of the commission have been modified year after year. It is still not perfect—at the start it was not perfect but it was a beginning—it is still not ideal, there are abuses still, but I am sure that the more we amend the law, the more hardship those who need it will suffer.

I noticed it again last year, when senior citizens 62 years of age were being taught grade 3 and 4 French. Between you and me, it would have been just as well to pay them a salary for staying home quietly in their rocking chair.

We, the legislators, just seem a little ridiculous because the effects of our legislation