

Departmental Organization

169. The Committee received a variety of suggestions for separating Immigration from Manpower and combining it with other related functions of government. Typical of these was the proposal of the Canadian Association of Social Workers that "*immigration could be better handled by a department . . . which could emphasize such cultural and social aspects of immigration as settlement services, citizenship and multi-cultural programs*" (0208). Others advocated maintaining the present link with Manpower.
170. The Committee was divided in its opinion. All members recognized the heavy burden borne by the Minister of the present Department, but while some felt this justified separating the two branches, others argued that Immigration would be the weaker and accorded to a junior and therefore, less influential Minister. Again some felt the link with Manpower led to exaggerated importance being attached to employment considerations, to which others replied that immigrants come essentially to improve their employment opportunities, and the link ensured the necessary collaboration between the two branches. There were other suggestions as well, that a new Department be established, called Immigration and Population, or that immigration be closely linked to regional development in order to put emphasis on human settlement.
171. Of the several proposals put to the Committee, the one which attracted most support was that Immigration be detached from Manpower and the Unemployment Insurance Commission and instead be linked with citizenship, multiculturalism and population to form a new portfolio. It was felt this represented a rational grouping of federal responsibilities, and a Minister with such a portfolio could expect to carry considerable weight in the Cabinet. Also, there was a widespread feeling that serious efforts should be made to strengthen the settlement services within the Immigration Branch.