

himself, but to establish a principle, so that the legislation would not give way to any favouritism, not that the minister could give instructions to that effect, but the door is still open because of this section.

And I wonder why the minister did not take any other steps so that the council itself would approve or recommend the hiring of such staff, subject to his approval; that would prevent the minister from making the choice, because he would be open to this kind of criticism in the future. We know by experience that there was a certain nonchalance inside the Post Office Department in this respect. We would like to protect the minister against such experience.

Mr. Marchand: Well, that is very kind of you sir, I will try to avoid taking any unnecessary risk in regard to this clause and protect myself.

[English]

Clause agreed to.

Clause 24 agreed to.

On clause 25—

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Chairman, I have just a short question. A question arises in my mind in connection with the repealing of these sections of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act. I am going back to clause 20. I wonder whether the new advisory board will now, on the co-ordination of rehabilitation services for disabled persons, carry some responsibility for retarded children and adults' work, which in this whole process has been moved around a bit. I wonder whether this board will be advising the minister on the advancing work that goes on in the whole field of retarded persons.

Mr. Marchand: I think they will have the same jurisdiction as before. It is the same group of people we want to cover under the new set-up. I do not understand the purpose of the hon. member's question. Is he afraid that there will be a limitation which does not exist under the present law?

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): I am asking this question for information and to find out whether the new advisory board will indeed be responsible for retarded persons' work.

Mr. Marchand: They can make recommendations for all groups of persons which fall under federal jurisdiction.

27053—160½

Manpower and Immigration Council

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): There is some confusion here, Mr. Chairman. Maybe this is not the time and place to clarify it, but there is some confusion whether responsibility for the rehabilitation for retarded persons falls within the realm of the manpower department or the department of health. I see that the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare is sitting behind the minister. Perhaps there is time for an instant conference on this question. I think it is something that needs to be clarified because there is confusion abroad as to where responsibility is exercised in these matters.

Mr. Marchand: There is no doubt that we in the Department of Manpower and Immigration have a responsibility concerning retarded children. I gave an address in Quebec a few days ago and mentioned what we were doing for retarded children. But of course, this is related to the employment of retarded children. The health aspect of retarded children falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): The minister is saying that where it is related to a matter of employment it will come under his jurisdiction, and hence under this new advisory board under the act that we are considering; is that correct?

Mr. Marchand: That is right.

Clause agreed to.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Chairman, I move an amendment that a new clause be added, namely, clause 26. I send it to the table and I shall read the same. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes, that Bill No. C-150 be amended by adding thereto the following:

Clause 26 (1) The chairman of the council shall, within three months after the termination of each fiscal year, transmit to the minister a statement relating to the activities of the council for that fiscal year, including the financial statements of the council and the Auditor General's report thereon, and the minister shall cause such statement to be laid before parliament within 15 days after the receipt thereof or, if parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first 15 days next thereafter that parliament is sitting.

(2) The council may prepare and cause to be published a review of medium and long term manpower and immigration prospects and problems.

(3) The council may cause to be published such studies and reports prepared for the use of the council as it sees fit.