

*Establishment of New Departments*

problems it had to consider and report upon was the matter of technological advance, modernization and automation. I am proud that this three-man board, representative of employers and employees, with a government appointed chairman, was able to bring forward a unanimous report. Top priority was given to the question of automation. The board recommended that within 60 days there should be a joint committee appointed with certain objectives and powers to work with departments of government and committees on this question of manpower and automation.

We made that recommendation in that way because we felt there had to be co-ordination and co-operation among employers, employees and the government before this problem of advancing technology and automation could be tackled effectively. Unless the three bodies in question work together our Canadian economy will be completely stymied. That is why, although I originally thought manpower should come under the Department of Labour, I now support completely the suggestion that there should be a separate manpower division.

Not only must there be co-operation among these three bodies, but there has to be direction and co-ordination on policy matters. Undoubtedly only the government can undertake to provide this direction in bringing the government, employers and employees together. One of my greatest hopes in supporting this suggestion for the establishment of a manpower department with its own minister is that there will be that type of priority given to direction and co-ordination.

There is no need to emphasize the interest and worry on the part of workers regarding this matter. They have taken the initiative in this direction, but success can only come as a result of co-operation. The leadership should come from the government. There are some employers who buck progress, modernization, and labour's attaining its fair share of the benefits that follow advances in technology and automation.

Here again we see a need for government interest, because in order that the Canadian economy be maintained, so that we can take our proper place in the national economy and international competition, the government must bring in legislation to make employers play ball. There is no other answer to this problem. For the reasons I have expressed, I welcome this recommendation on the part of

[Mr. Winch.]

the government to establish a manpower department with its own minister.

I said there were two phases of the resolution in which I was very greatly interested and with which I was concerned. The second relates to the transfer from the Department of Justice to the department of the solicitor general of authority and responsibility in relation to our penitentiaries, and the ramifications connected with the granting of parole. I have had a great interest in this matter for many years and I think this transfer is an important step in the right direction. Perhaps now we will see some action; perhaps now we will have a department and a minister which will have time to study and understand these important matters. I realize the terrifically fantastic responsibilities the ministers of justice had under the past administrative set-up, and this is the only reason I can think of why this whole field has been neglected so much in the past. Ministers of justice have not had the time or the interest to deal properly with questions of modern penology. As a result the taxpayers of Canada have been paying millions of dollars unnecessarily because of government stupidity and the fact that their policies were so archaic.

• (8:00 p.m.)

Hon. members know that the Department of Justice had a plan of penitentiary construction over the period of seven to ten years. This was going to cost the taxpayers God knows how many millions of dollars. The Elizabeth Fry organization, the John Howard Society, the parole association and every similar body were completely opposed to this plan, but the Minister of Justice said, "Phooey; you don't know what you are talking about. I am going to call the tenders."

As soon as this matter was turned over to the Solicitor General the same representations were made by the same organizations, and within two hours he said, "I cannot stop the development at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary; it is 75 per cent completed. But I will hold off in regard to every other new tender until this matter can be studied." This illustrates the difference of attitude and approach on the part of a minister who is perhaps going to have the time to make the necessary studies.

We have spent millions of dollars on a narcotics institute in British Columbia. It was opened only last Friday. I was in the Kingston penitentiary for women—I can get in and out—and found there are 20 narcotics addicts