

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

I take it that these advisory committees will, in the end, be very similar to other such committees which advise not only ministers of immigration but ministers of industry, ministers of finance and other members of the government. Sometimes I wonder whether these bodies are really what they purport to be. We know there is always a considerable amount of trouble balancing the membership of these advisory committees by appointing appropriate numbers of representatives from unions, management and particular areas of the country, winding up, finally, with university types for whom I have a great respect, of course, and who seem to be acceptable to everyone.

There is nothing wrong with that, but committees being what they are, as most hon. members will know from their own experience, a powerful and experienced administrator is in most cases appointed as secretary; directly or indirectly he influences the committee until in reality what we have is a committee of one. I am sure this is not the intent of the resolution before us. I wish to applaud the minister's efforts in introducing new regulations affecting immigration.

● (8:20 p.m.)

As you recall, Mr. Chairman, recently the minister told of the new procedure whereby, through a system of marks, the administrators will be able to judge people who are eligible to be immigrants. This is a very good system because it draws a fine line between giving the administrators a guide line and, at the same time, allowing them enough discretion to do a good job.

In that respect, and dealing with the formation of these committees, I wish to say it is essential that they have the advantage of research. Research, to my way of thinking, is not taking the figures of the bureau of statistics, figures which have been accumulated over a period of time, and then saying, "Well, we now have so many thousand plasterers employed in Canada. There is so much construction and so much demand for plasterers." These figures can also be applied to service industries such as the restaurant business. That is not research; that is the accumulation of facts.

True research goes a little deeper than that. Applied research means that facts are accumulated and then projected. It is not a question of our having so many plasterers or bricklayers employed in Canada and then saying there is only room for so many. True research means finding out the numbers of

plasterers and bricklayers that will be required in construction seven or ten years from now, and discovering the likelihood of the adoption of new methods of construction. The same applies to other qualifications and trades.

This will be an expensive undertaking. I urge the minister to make good research available to these committees. In order to do a first class research job their research facilities must be involved with all other phases of industry such as transportation, finance, the economy of the country, and the likes and dislikes of the consuming public. All these other factors enter into research. Research must take into account the current financial position and the likelihood of recessions. It will be an expensive and exacting business.

I know some of our government departments have instituted research branches, but whether these are truly qualified research efforts is another matter. It is very easy to say to people who are not doing anything and who know nothing, "Start a research department." That is the worst way to do things. I urge the minister to give serious consideration to the establishment of a good, efficient, knowledgeable research branch, one that will co-operate with other departments so that rather than being solely concerned with the department of immigration it will work along with the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of Finance. I am sure that in that way it would do a better job.

The results of research should always be made available to these committees so that they can advise the minister on what immigration policies should be. Given good research, these committees can make a concerted effort to advise the minister not only on what is taking place today but on what will take place in the future.

In that way the criteria which the minister has publicized can be changed. If these criteria are allowed to stagnate they will become firmly fixed in the administration and 20 years from now the department will still be following them because normally it is difficult for administrators to change their minds. In order to make our immigration policy workable these criteria will have to be changed from time to time in accordance with what is happening in the country, and what will happen.

At the time that the administration of manpower was merged with the administration of immigration, I had sincere doubts about the advisability of the merger because

[Mr. Otto.]