

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

minister whether that rule exists and whether it is as rigid as Mr. Fenwick apparently thinks it is.

Mr. Fenwick went on to say some other things. For instance, he said this:

—as a result of the government's austerity program, the Riverdale collegiate training centre, where immigrants had been taught, is closed, as is the Castle Frank centre.

I asked the minister about this on orders of the day, and if I understood his reply correctly he said it was true the centres had been closed, but suggested this was because they belonged to the board of education, which needed them for its own purpose and had asked to have them back. I should like to ask the minister whether an effort is being made to find other locations where this training can be carried on. It seems to me there must be other premises in the city of Toronto which could be made available for this purpose.

Mr. Fenwick made another statement which I think is very serious, if it is correct. He said that—

—A. W. Fair, co-ordinator of manpower training in Toronto, has reported to the advisory committee that 80 teachers have left because they feel there is no future for the program as a result of the economy move.

I presume he referred to 80 teachers in Toronto. If this is so, or even if this figure is a mistake, it would seem to cripple a program of this kind. I do not know what sort of educational institution or organization could lose 80 teachers in one area, because they do not have confidence that the program will continue without crippling its program.

When I raised this same matter during consideration of the minister's estimates he was not able to speak in the house but very kindly wrote to me and other members in explanation. He seemed to imply in his letter that the training program was going to expand. However, if it is going to expand, it is rather serious, if it is true, that 80 teachers in one area have left because they do not have confidence that this program will continue.

● (8:10 p.m.)

These are not just the views of Mr. Fenwick. Although Mr. Fenwick is on the advisory council, he may easily be mistaken. I have here another newspaper clipping which appeared in the press at last week where Mr.

R. M. Warren, executive director of the manpower services division of the Ontario labour department said this:

The fact that negotiations dragged on this long has kept the level of the program down.

He is referring to the two governments that used to share responsibility for the adult retraining program. I understand that negotiations are continuing with the provinces. If I understand correctly, until recently Ontario and British Columbia had not signed agreements, although they may have by now. It is six months since the act was originally passed. Mr. Warren went on to say, and I presume he is dealing with the Ontario figures, that before April the division had 8,000 trainees enrolled in on-the-job courses. The number fell to 3,000 in midsummer, but has since grown to about 4,000. Mr. Warren was speaking in November. I know that the minister when writing to me on this subject, and no doubt to other hon. members, said there was a temporary lull during the summer and the apparently unsatisfactory figures are due to the fact of the seasonal lull and full employment. Now we have not full employment, and the seasonal lull must surely be over. The same article quotes Mr. E. L. Kerridge, administrator of the Ontario manpower department's retraining program, who said that the monthly enrolment is running at 70 per cent of the level in 1966, when 60,000 took the department's retraining courses. Again, I suppose he is speaking about the province of Ontario, which he would know. But this 70 per cent figure does not fit in at all with the rather soothing letter the minister sent to me in which he indicated that the temporary lull was over and there would be a gradual increase in this program.

I do not think Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Warren or Mr. Kerridge would make these statements unless they were correct. The total result of these figures seems to indicate a rather serious lack in this program. I ask the minister to give an assurance to the house that this manpower training program will not be cut down because of any economy drive or axe wielded by his colleague the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp), because in my judgment it would be a shortsighted and foolish policy to cut down on this type of government spending. It would not do anything to cure inflation.

We can understand that the Minister of Finance is anxious to cut down government expenditures in order to halt inflationary trends in the economy. There may be some fairly obvious places to make these cuts, and