

Manpower and Immigration . . . informed of the manpower vacancies of the applicant in the designated region in which the facility for the establishment expansion or modernization of which the development incentive was authorized is, or is to be, situated . . .

The regulations clearly state the necessity of reporting vacancies and openings to Manpower.

● (2210)

According to the response to order paper questions 3884, 3885, 3886 and 3887 addressed to Canada Manpower, 94 companies, representative of all the designated regions of Canada, announced in the press releases of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion as accepting incentive offers some time between October and December of 1975, are shown to have reported to Canada Manpower 508 vacancies.

DREE press releases indicated these same 94 companies created 2,129 jobs, or four times the number of jobs reported to Canada Manpower. Canada Manpower in the same order paper returns shows that 354 positions were filled. This is only one seventh of the total number of "jobs created" announced by DREE. The report of job openings to Manpower is a statutory requirement that must be met before one cent of DREE money is advanced. The number of jobs to be created is an important factor in determining not only how much money DREE will grant a recipient but whether or not DREE will make any grant.

The large discrepancy between DREE figures and Manpower records is very serious indeed. What is the explanation? Is there any on-going liaison between DREE and Manpower regarding enforcement of the Regional Development Incentives Act for the reporting of job opportunities by DREE funded companies? That is the question I asked the minister. Perhaps now that he is informed of the facts he will not be so proud of his answer. He said "obviously consultations are held between both departments concerned". I do not think it is so obvious. "Generally speaking," he said, "one can say that there is a close co-operation between both departments and the possible employers".

I do not know what they consult about or what they co-operate about, but I do know that DREE should be monitoring the job orders placed with Manpower by companies it funds, to be certain beyond doubt that DREE grants create jobs for people in the economically depressed regions intended.

I want to know why DREE and Manpower are so far apart in their figures when the act clearly states that, as a condition precedent to the payment of any amount on account of a development incentive, the DREE applicant not only should inform Manpower of the manpower vacancies but keep Manpower informed.

The amount of \$12,342,909 of DREE grants is involved. How does DREE announce the creation of 2,129 jobs while Manpower has reports of one quarter of those positions and employs only one seventh of them? The returns and releases I cited show that some of the companies in particular were sadly deficient. Didier Refractives Corporation of Beaucanour, Quebec, were to hire 294 people, reported none and hired none through Manpower. Mac Don Industries Limited of Winnipeg, Manitoba, were to hire 276 people, reported 47 and actually hired 38 through Manpower. Targetair Limited of Moncton, New Brunswick, were to

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hire 32, reported none and hired none through Manpower. Avalon PreCast Concrete Limited of Carbonear, Newfoundland, were to hire 25 people, reported none and hired none through Manpower. Volcano Ltée of Saint Hyacinthe, Quebec were to create 88 jobs; reported eight and hired one through Manpower. The Mikron Group Electronics Limited of Burlington, Ontario, were to create 14 jobs; reported no positions open to Manpower and hired none through Manpower.

The list goes on and on; it is part of the records of the House. Out of all 94 companies only one followed the intent of the Regional Development Incentives Act.

Carter Electronics Limited of Winnipeg, Manitoba, had 13 job openings, reported 13 to manpower and hired 13 through manpower. What a record—one out of 94!

Mr. Cliff McIsaac (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie) raises a very valid question concerning consultation arrangements between the Department of Manpower and Immigration and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. To begin with, there is not necessarily any direct correlation between the figures the hon. member used in his argument.

The fact that a company accepts an offer and is going to provide a certain number of jobs does not mean that will happen the next day or the next week, as the hon. member is well aware in view of the type of question he has been asking. It could well be sometime later before these particular jobs are made available, so he cannot base it merely on the date of acceptance.

Certainly the evaluation of every project submitted for consideration under the act is done by an incentive officer who is required to ensure that the applicant is co-operating with the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration. When an offer of a development incentive from the department is accepted the applicant, being the company involved, undertakes to comply with the terms and conditions of the legislation.

Mr. Howie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Under the act he should be required to do that before it is accepted.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The hon. member cannot rise on a point of order at this time.

Mr. McIsaac: The applicant undertakes to comply with the particular Section 13, a part of which the hon. member has read. So it is up to the applicant, the company, the individual or the firm accepting the offer to live up to the terms of these regulations. It is also important to be aware that when each payment toward the incentive is made, the applicant is reminded again that he must continue to comply with these particular regulations.

As the hon. member is also well aware, I am sure, the department of manpower officials sit on an advisory committee associated with DREE in reviewing all of the major projects, and it certainly has been the experience of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, at least, that these firms do determine the availability and suitability of local manpower, and contact the local Manpower centres for this particular purpose. Certainly it is obvious also that