

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

yet the cost of moving this man's furniture was \$672 for the shorter distance compared with \$370 for the longer distance. My point is this: while rules and regulations are needed in connection with these programs they should be guided by common sense and be sufficiently flexible to allow common sense to be used. The situation in Bachawana Bay is that no housing is available; employees moved there must live in trailers. Consequently, there was no space suitable for the storage of this man's furniture unless he decided to buy a tent and store it more or less in the open.

The employee concerned is within two years of retirement. He wanted to move his furniture to Toronto where he has children and where he intends to live on his retirement. He went to the department and asked whether the money it was prepared to pay on his behalf could be credited against the cost of moving his furniture to Toronto. He was willing to pay the balance. The officials told him this was not possible. Contract was signed with an outfit called Rember moving and the furniture would be moved to Bachawana Bay even if it had to be thrown into the street on arrival.

This raises two or three questions. First, I think we should know why the price charged for moving the furniture was doubled even though the distance was shorter by some 200 miles. Second, we should be told why a little common sense cannot be used in such circumstances.

The other matter I wish to raise has to do with the retraining and upgrading program. Again, I should like to bring up a particular case in order to illustrate the point I am making. It has to do with a woman who is the sole support of her four children and who had enrolled in a course designed to upgrade her education and train her as a bookkeeper. She wished to pass grade ten and become trained as a bookkeeper.

After she had enrolled it was discovered that this woman had exceptional ability. Although it had not been intended that she should receive this training she went on to attend the school for some two years during which time she passed not only grade 10 but grades 11 and 12. As a result she is within a year of getting a teaching certificate which would enable her to work to support herself and her children from that point on. This situation came to light about the same time as the government was putting on a big economy drive, and this woman, within a

year of becoming a most useful citizen capable of looking after herself and her family, was turned out. Two years have been wasted and she will have to fall back on welfare payments for the support of herself and her family.

Various officials with whom I have discussed this matter were extremely sympathetic; they realize that this is an unusual case involving a woman of exceptional ability who should be given every opportunity. But they are bound by the regulations and cannot provide assistance in any way. They say, moreover, that the provinces are raising a furore about the danger of the federal government moving into the field of education.

To my mind this represents a "dog in the manger" attitude. If, in fact, the provinces are raising objections, it is a case of utter stupidity. If they are not prepared to supply this training themselves, why should they object if the federal government brings in a plan which will fill the gap and enable students to become valuable, contributing members of society?

As I said before, these programs are basically good programs and we shall certainly support this resolution. But let us, for heaven's sake, iron out some of the difficulties which have been encountered and, far from least, ensure that this program is applied with common sense. Let us remember the objective we are trying to attain; we are seeking to assist and train people so that they can take their places in society better equipped, and it is no part of that purpose to formulate a list of rules which defeat the very purpose of our endeavours.

**Mr. Otto:** I intend to direct my remarks to the subject of the resolution on the order paper which is intended, as I understand it, to introduce a measure to establish a Canadian manpower immigration task force—no, it is to be an immigration council; I thought "task force" was the new phrase and that no one used "council" or "advisory board" any more.

This is a resolution to provide for an immigration council, advisory boards and local manpower committees and it is within this context that I wish to address my remarks to the minister, particularly in reference to the part which says "to provide also for the appointment of the members thereof, their remuneration, allowances and other expenses."