

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

[English]

At this time the Chair has a certain intuition that hon. members wish to suspend the sitting until eight o'clock. Is this unanimously agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Agreed. Accordingly the sitting of this house is suspended until eight o'clock and consequently I do now leave the chair.

SITTING SUSPENDED

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

### MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

#### PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, ADVISORY BOARDS, ETC.

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Marchand for the third reading of Bill No. C-150, to establish a Canada Manpower and Immigration Council, and the amendment thereto of Mr. McCleave.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, I composed my words, partly with the understanding that the minister would be here—and I am glad to see that he is arriving. During the resolution, second reading and committee stages on this bill we expressed our views that the council for which provision is made in the bill might well be very useful, and therefore we have approved of its creation. I do not intend to repeat what was said in the earlier debate, but I think the usefulness of the council, as with all councils, will depend very much on its composition. I notice it can contain up to 15 members and I know the minister will appoint representatives of business and labour.

Let me point out that during the hearings of the special joint committee on immigration we received extremely helpful advice from a number of groups, especially groups and organizations of new Canadians. It is my hope that there will be some representation on his council of these groups, which in themselves are composed of former immigrants, because in part the council will have to deal with the problems of immigrants.

We also received excellent briefs from trained and experienced social workers. I hope they also will be represented. It is unnecessary for me to suggest to the minister

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret).]

that a council of this sort without a woman member would not be of the proper council. At the risk of having the minister think we have a tiresome habit of repeating some ideas again and again I want to repeat a theme we have discussed in this house from time to time. I refer to the suggestion that the manpower training program is being allowed to lag because of overly rigid regulations.

Mr. Michael Fenwick, who is a vice president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, speaking recently at Niagara Falls used some harsh language about the minister. I do not endorse this language, but he said the minister was scuttling the adult job retraining program in Canada. Perhaps that is not true, and unfair, but some of the things Mr. Fenwick said are disturbing, and I should like to put them to the minister to give him the opportunity of replying. I might add that Mr. Fenwick is not only a vice president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, he is also a member of the metropolitan Toronto advisory committee on manpower and retraining. I presume he knows what he is speaking about in respect of this particular field. He said:

—the whole program of adult education and retraining is going down the drain because of the restrictions placed on the unemployed who want to upgrade themselves.

He then went on to say, referring I suppose to the metropolitan area of Toronto:

—referrals by the manpower department for training have dropped from 2,000 a month last April to 500 in September.

I have other figures in this regard, as I am sure the minister has. Mr. Fenwick went on to say:

—that manpower training has been a victim of the government's program to cut expenditures.

Mr. Fenwick then explained in a little more detail what he meant when he said there was no retraining for unemployed persons who could find a job in their trade in another community. I can understand that there might be situations in which, if a person was ready to move to another area and qualified to fit into a job which was open to him somewhere else, there might be some reason for questioning whether or not that man should in every case be allowed to take a retraining program. However, as the retraining program is for the purpose of upgrading skills, and in many cases if a man is married with a family it might be impractical for him to move to some other area, this rule which suggests that there is no retraining is far too rigid. I should like to ask the