

Business of Supply

cease to be eligible for manpower training allowance. I suggest this is an outmoded restriction of provision in the act.

Mr. Speaker, before you rise I suggest that I will be able to conclude my comments on this motion in three minutes, unless some hon. members object.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Schreyer: I suggest this is an outmoded section in the existing act having to do with occupational training of adults and should be revised.

I also want to suggest to the minister that upon analysing some of the manpower training courses that are being offered, and watching them as they are operated and administered in the field, I find there is an unacceptably high ratio of administrative costs to the total cost of the program. It seems to me that the department would be well advised in helping people to learn jobs in a context that is meaningful, that is on the job. The department should give more emphasis and should promote greater utilization of manpower training funds for on the job or in the plant or on site training programs. There has not been too much success over the past two or three years in promoting this kind of training program.

I want to say also that I agreed with the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir) when he suggested that the present manpower and immigration policy did not seem to take adequately into account the regional discrepancies that exist in this country. The department should be prepared to show a greater regional bias in order to help in the process of reducing regional disparity.

● (6:00 p.m.)

I am reminded, for example, of the fact that our Canadian immigration policy is administered under regulations which do not take any account of regional differences in demand for labour. Often, one finds the department applying these regulations in a strict way, even though in a particular region such as the prairies there may be a strong demand for labour. People from other countries may have made application to go to the region which is short of labour, but as far as the Department of Manpower and Immigration is concerned one would never know the situation in that particular region was different from that existing in central Canada, for example.

[Mr. Schreyer.]

In conclusion may I say this: as I understand the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), the suggestion is that the government has failed to provide not only for the adequate development of manpower resources but also for their retention. If the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the so-called brain drain, I suggest that one reason for the existence of this phenomenon is this: the government has demonstrated in recent weeks that it has no co-ordinated policy in connection with science research.

It is not hard to understand why so many of our young graduates in science and engineering find it frustrating to remain in this country when there are so many more opportunities available for them in the United States. Until the minister can persuade his colleagues to take a more co-ordinated view of science research policy many more young people will migrate to take up employment elsewhere, finding that Canada does not offer them sufficient opportunities in this regard.

It is not difficult to support the intention of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, or, for that matter, the amendment proposed by my hon. friend from Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent). Like my hon. friend, I believe that if unemployment is on the increase it stems from the lack of an adequate rate of growth in the economy. The government must involve itself to take up the slack in areas where private enterprise is failing to sustain the desired rate of growth.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate have passed Bill C-155, an Act to provide compensation to farmers whose agricultural products are contaminated by pesticide residue, and to provide for appeals from compensation awards, with an amendment to which the concurrence of this house is desired;

Also, a message informing this house that the Senate have passed Bill C-157, an Act to regulate products used for the control of pests and the organic functions of plants and animals, with an amendment to which the concurrence of this house is desired.

It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the house took recess.