

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

loiter in and around immigration sheds until transportation is available to take them somewhere else. I note that one of the purposes which the minister mentioned is the adjustment of immigrants to Canada. I suggest that adjustment should start with a great, all-embracing welcome in happy surroundings at the moment they first set foot on the soil of this country.

What are the objectives of the minister and his department? I have read some of the addresses delivered by the minister and I think the philosophy he expresses can best be found in a speech titled "Careers In Canada—Today and Tomorrow" which he delivered at the opening of Careers Expo '67 at Peterborough, Ontario, on April 18 last.

The first point he mentioned in that speech in developing his concept of the new Department of Manpower and Immigration was:

—leave the field of basic education and turn our attention to the occupational training of adults.

He included some riders with respect to government policy dealing with help at that level of education, but by and large the philosophy is to get out of the field of basic education and concentrate on occupational training of adults.

The weakness, if there is one, concerns a segment of our people most conspicuously represented by the hippies of Yorkville and of other parts of Canada, who have not really taken basic education and have no desire to take occupational training either. Since the hippie problem continues to grow I think the new manpower council might want to make some suggestions to the minister as to how one can utter the word "work" to a hippy without causing him to faint or to reach for a double dose of L.S.D.

The second point which the minister made in his Peterborough speech, dealing with his basic philosophy, was the new program to encourage manpower mobility. I make no comment on that as it is quite fitting in the world of rapid transport today.

His third point dealt with this development:

—a manpower consultative service which helps industry work out manpower problems caused by changing technology, automation and other modern industrial facts of life.

The fourth cornerstone of his philosophy and program he stated as follows:

—there is much that can be done to encourage that part of the immigration process that will contribute most effectively to our economic growth.

In fairness to the minister I should say that he did not leave out of his philosophy

certain of the social aspects as well as the economic aspects of immigration into this country, but I think I have quoted him fairly as to his basic philosophy in setting up this department.

Sir, not having seen the bill I can only guess where its weaknesses may be, but I think there are three areas of possible criticism. This council seems to be so broadly conceived that it could almost be a substitute minister in suggesting policies that would cover the universal operations of his department. I do not know what he has in mind for the ladies and gentlemen who will man the council, how strong their personalities will be, and whether they will be confined to one side or the other of industry. I presume he will bring both management and labour into the picture but I hope that whatever he comes up with he will not let the council become the tail that wags the dog.

The second area of criticism arises from a point made by Jean-Real Cardin, director of the Industrial Relations Department at Laval University, who reported to the Economic Council of Canada in March as follows:

● (5:20 p.m.)

Efforts to develop a truly effective manpower policy have been unsuccessful up to now and may well be futile in the future unless: employers and workers become better informed on the real issue; the scope of collective bargaining is greatly broadened; major changes are made in labour legislation; and there is a real change of attitudes, power structures and organization both in labour and management.

I think it is valid to mention those points here and also to note that the objectives the minister has for the Canada manpower and immigration council, it seems to me, do not go to the root of the problems that are mentioned by Monsieur Cardin.

I should like to make a third point but before I do so perhaps I might note the presence of the hon. member for Russell in the chair. I believe this is the first time he has honoured us as our chairman by his presence in his new uniform. I am glad to see that it fits so snugly. He seems to have had a good summer and I hope the salary is commensurate with the splendour of his garb.

Finally, my third suggestion to the minister in respect of his proposed council is: Let it be advisory, yes, but do not let it be an excuse for not fully developing manpower policies that will achieve the maximum good for Canada with economies which, at least to outside observers, are not apparent now.