

difference between provincial government employment placement operations and federal government employment placement operations? What is the difference in philosophy?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, the major difference is that the provincial employment centres are restrictive and ours cover the entire country. We attempt to provide services for individuals right across Canada to make sure there is full opportunity and access. The provincial centres cater to their own populations and to specific industries only.

If the hon. member wants to argue for a restrictive manpower service run by the provinces, then he is welcome to it. But we on this side of the House happen to feel, consistent with our own philosophy, that this country survives and continues to exist by a national approach and a shared national approach. Therefore, we will continue to operate a manpower service for all Canadians.

Mr. Hawkes: Could the minister confirm—I will give him another minute to think—that he believes that the philosophical differences are in the area of a restrictive and limited manpower service, that is, between the way in which provinces run their manpower placement services and the way in which the federal government runs its manpower placement services? Is that the minister's state of knowledge?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, I am not here to debate the state of the knowledge of one member over another. I try to do my best, and I am sure the hon. member tries to do his best. I simply pointed out that they are restrictive to the extent that those services only operate within provincial boundaries. They cater only to the population within finite limits. That is why there are provinces, and that is why we need a national government to make sure there is the ability to transcend those provincial boundaries and not to have the country fragmented into jurisdictions with fences between them. It is to make sure that a Canadian in Manitoba who wants to move to Alberta knows there is a way of finding out whether there is a job there and that there is a mobility grant to move him there, and training is available which may be useful in both places so he could move back and forth. That is the difference.

Sometimes the hon. member expressed amazement. Sometimes we find it amazing that he and others like him have such a limited and restricted view of this country. They see it only in terms of its provincial boundaries and not in terms of its national focus.

I suggest that if we are to go through a mutual educational process during these hours together, it may be well worth while for the hon. member to think about his philosophical basis, which it seems to me is totally parochial and provincial in scope, with the assumption that without question provincial governments do things better. Provincial governments do some things very well. There are very good provincial governments. I was a member of a provincial assembly for seven years. I took a great deal of pride and a great deal of interest in that particular occupation. However, I came to one

Supply

conclusion, namely, there are things provincial governments simply cannot do.

If we are to hold this country together, there must be a strong national government which can provide services, resources and facilities for Canadians regardless in which region or province they happen to live. That is a real difference. So if we are going to exchange philosophies, I suggest that the hon. member has a few things to learn as well about what this country is all about.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Chairman, let me tell the hon. minister that I have worked in different regions of the country, perhaps in more regions than he has and for a longer period of time. I care about Canada at least as deeply and maybe more deeply than he does. I understand clearly that we are free men and women who enter into social contracts to work together.

An hon. Member: It doesn't look like it.

Mr. Hawkes: There is a great deal of resentment of a central government which operates under the guise of being strong, which is doing irreparable harm to this nation. The government he supports is dangerously on that course.

I did not indicate to the minister in any way that I preferred the provincial model over the federal model. I think we need to utilize all the philosophies available in the placement field. I am beginning to discover, however, that the minister seems either unwilling or unable to deal with the fact that there are at least two major philosophies relating to replacement operations. In this country provincial governments tend to adopt a placement philosophy which is different from the federal one. Provincial governments tend to actualize it. There may be a good model by using both, with the federal government doing one thing and the provincial doing another. I am anxious to discover whether or not in the theoretical literature dealing with placement services the minister recognizes the two different philosophies. Then we might move on to an examination of what he sees as the strengths and weaknesses of them. Does the minister know what the two major philosophies are?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Chairman, it would be helpful if the hon. member would describe the philosophies he is talking about. In reading the literature, as the hon. member knows, there is a wide variety. There are not just two philosophies of placement services. There are several philosophies of placement services. There are almost as many philosophies of placement services as there are theoreticians of personnel policy. Everyone has designed his own will or his own pyramid. I would suggest if the hon. member wants an answer he should outline which two philosophies he is putting in contradiction.

There are several philosophies, several approaches, and all kinds of models. We would be very interested in hearing from him which one he thinks is appropriate, or which two he puts in contra-distinction. If he is referring to the distinction I raised before between the position taken by the government in his own province, which is that of assuming local preference, versus one where we think there should be equal opportunity,