

Supply

katchewan, there were 30,169 vacancies notified by employers and 21,146 placements. In Alberta there were 97,112 references by employers and 65,505 placements. In the Northwest Territories there were 3,211 references and 2,362 placements. In British Columbia, there were 150,998 and 120,436 placements. In the Yukon, there were 2,352 vacancies, and 2,140 placements as a result of those references by employers to the Canada Manpower Centres.

• (1610)

This is the information for which the hon. member asked me a few minutes ago and I am pleased to be able to place it on the record.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Chairman, what are the breakdowns for the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Andras: In Newfoundland, there were 27,046 vacancies notified by employers to CMC, and 21,525 placements.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe it.

Mr. Andras: In Prince Edward Island, there were 8,478 references and 7,841 placements. In Nova Scotia, there were 48,572 vacancies notified and 38,211 placements. In New Brunswick, there were 35,889 references of vacancies and 28,690 placements.

I might indicate for clarification that these placements to which I am referring do not include casual placements of a week or less and that across Canada those totalled an additional 300,000 short-term jobs for casual employees.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege. Perhaps the only way that I and my colleagues from the Northwest Territories can see this done is to rise each time on a question of privilege. These figures are the kind of figures we would like to see recorded in all returns. The minister has given them to us, but where the failure arises is that they are not included in statistical releases, such as, for instance, the report on the operations under the Unemployment Insurance Act. The minister has them and all that the printers have to do is to publish them in separate statistics. I hope that his officials will ensure that that is done in the cases of the two northern territories in the future.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Chairman, I rise on the question of privilege. I agree entirely with the hon. member. I thought that he would rise to thank me, at least to recognize that we did have the statistics and put them in separately, having missed doing so a few other times. So long as the performance is as good as this one, I would be delighted to have those figures included in the future reports of the Unemployment Insurance Commission or of this agency and other agencies with which I am related.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reply for a moment to my friend, the hon. member for Hamilton West. This party has always been interested in the working man and woman. We have always held that unemployment insurance was no substitute for a salary well earned. But it seems to me rather strange that, since unemployment was created in an attempt to slow down inflation, we are now blaming people for the mess in which they find themselves. As we all know, it is a requirement that an

unemployed person register with a manpower centre when applying for unemployment insurance. Yet, on the other side of the coin, it is not required that every available job in Canada be registered with manpower. To give you an idea of the situation in the Sudbury district, at the moment there are 7,600 people registered with manpower looking for work, and yet that office only has a turnover of 400 jobs a month. I suggest that the manpower office in that area is not performing the service which it should perform in terms of placing these people in jobs.

I have also noticed that the unemployment insurance office has now established what is called the claimant's assistance program. It seems to me that this program on which they are embarking falls within the realm of manpower centres in that it offers counselling to those who are unemployed in an attempt to help them make up a resumé in applying for a job. I have also noticed that the manpower centre is now turning people over to the unemployment insurance office in cases where people are not interested in a part time job or where the job offered to them by the manpower centre is located too far from the place where they live. It seems to me that on the one hand we want to assist people and, on the other hand, we establish a gestapo-kind of operation.

I want to say a few words on some of the practices in manpower offices in terms of discriminating against those people who want retraining for other kinds of jobs. For example, it is not unknown for a counsellor to say to a person: "we do not have an opening in the retraining program as yet, and there will not be one for three weeks or three months". When I contacted the Manpower office personally to find out why Miss Brown was not accepted for the retraining program, I was told by the counsellor that she was not suitable for office work. When I asked what he meant, I was told: "she is not attractive enough". I think that this practice of evaluating individuals who come to manpower offices for help contradicts the very spirit in which the office has been established. The Sudbury area, for example—and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration was there this past weekend—is a far-flung area with small communities. Yet people as far away as 60 miles are expected to come in and report to the Manpower office because there is no office in their particular area to serve them. It seems to me that if we are really interested in helping the unemployed find jobs, we should establish offices close to them where we can give them advice on the spur of the moment and help them in finding jobs.

I have also come across the practice in some Manpower offices of sending applicants or people registered with the Manpower centre to non-existent jobs. I have had a couple of cases in the Sudbury area which have occurred in the last couple of months of persons being sent to jobs which had been filled four weeks previously. It seems to me that, because of the high number of unemployed in the particular area, the manpower centre cannot keep abreast of the number of vacant jobs. The problem in the Sudbury area is far too many unemployed and far too little help in terms of trying to place these unemployed people in jobs. I would much prefer to see the two departments brought together, unemployment insurance and manpower centres. The aims and objectives of these two bodies are very close and related. People have the impression that these

[Mr. Andras.]