

# The Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science

## Evidence

Ottawa, Thursday, June 29, 1972

The Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science, to which was referred Bill C-195, to amend the Adult Occupational Training Act, met this day at 9.32 a.m. to give consideration to the bill.

**Senator Chesley W. Carter** (*Acting Chairman*) in the Chair.

**The Acting Chairman:** Honourable senators, I thank you for according me the honour of presiding over this meeting. I know that time is very scarce and that we want to progress as quickly as we can.

We have with us Mr. John Meyer, the Acting Director of the Manpower Training Branch, Department of Manpower and Immigration. How do you wish to proceed? Do you wish to have a general discussion and then deal with the clauses afterwards?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**The Acting Chairman:** Mr. Meyer, do you wish to make an opening statement?

**Mr. H. J. Meyer, Acting Director, Manpower Training Branch, Department of Manpower and Immigration:** I was not briefed to do that. Perhaps it would be easier for me to respond to any questions senators may have on the bill.

**Senator Smith:** Perhaps I might make a suggestion. In the Senate we had what I thought was a very clear exposition on of the contents of the bill, followed by several important speeches of a critical nature—and I use that word in its best sense. Those who made suggestions in the Senate itself are present here this morning, and it might serve our purpose if they put their questions to the witness, in case he has not been briefed on them.

**The Acting Chairman:** Is that agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**Senator Macdonald:** Can the witness tell us how many are on these courses at the present time?

**Mr. Meyer:** I would imagine that at this point in time we would have something in the order of 60,000 trainees.

**Senator Macdonald:** That is under the present system, whereby they had to be in the labour force for three years?

**Mr. Meyer:** Yes.

**Senator Macdonald:** Under this bill that no longer applies. Have you any forecast on how many more will be coming in, and whether you will be able to accommodate them in courses?

**Mr. Meyer:** At the present an average of slightly less than 60 per cent do not receive allowances, so these people will now be eligible for allowances. Apart from that, what it really boils down to is that we have a broader mandate but not more money. If anything, I suppose the selection process will become a little more difficult.

**Senator Inman:** Are elderly, retired people drawing fairly good pensions allowed to enter a training scheme?

**Mr. Meyer:** In principle, yes, though I would imagine the circumstances would need to be rather unusual.

**Senator Inman:** They are not unusual in our province.

**Senator Macdonald:** I think what the witness means is that the plan is to help employment.

**Senator Inman:** I am thinking of, say, a bank manager taking training.

**Senator Macdonald:** You mean, after he has retired from the bank.

**Mr. Meyer:** The circumstances would need to be rather unusual, in that the training is intended to prepare or better equip people for employment. I presume that retired people are expected to have retired from the labour force.

**Senator Inman:** Is there some sort of screening carried out?

**Mr. Meyer:** Yes, in the sense that manpower counsellors in the Canada Manpower Centres must determine whether the intent of the bill is being met by placing into such training the individual who seeks such placement. The intention of the bill—is, as I explained, to prepare people for more rewarding or more remunerative employment.

**Senator Yuzyk:** How do you follow up after a trainee has completed his course, regarding his employment?

**Mr. Meyer:** There are two types of follow up. One is the perhaps somewhat informal one, where the Manpower counsellor initially responsible for placement of the individual in training will follow him up, keep his files active, so to speak, keep an eye on the release date, the date the trainee is expected to become available, and, if