

Supply—Labour

apparently exists amongst the Chinese community in Winnipeg. Would the Prime Minister indicate whether he did give them any assurance last November, and if so what was the nature of the assurance?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I believe that the details of this question have been brought to the attention of the house on two previous occasions, by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and by the Minister of Justice. This whole question is one that is receiving the earnest attention of the government. All recognize that the Chinese are fine citizens, and our purpose is to assure in every way that they receive fairness and justice.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): As a supplementary question I would ask the Minister of Justice whether he thinks this whole matter could not be brought to an early termination.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): We have been bending our efforts in that direction since long before the hon. member made his suggestion.

Mr. Pickersgill: Pretty poor efforts.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Martineau in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Technical and vocational training assistance—

636. To carry out the purposes of the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act and agreements made thereunder—payments to the provinces—further amount required, \$28,400,000.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Timmins.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): I listened very carefully to the debate which arose in connection with this item in the supplementary estimates and to the very excellent case that has been built by the hon. member for Peterborough and the hon. member for Port Arthur. Combined with the complete lack of answers by any spokesman for the government to the questions raised by these hon. members, their case underlines the fact that all the boo-boos this government has pulled over the last four years in its efforts to solve the problems of our society, this measure ranks as the biggest.

It would be interesting to try and analyse it a little bit in order to find out how the government got into this particular mess. To do so we would have to go back to 1957 and 1958 when the present government in-

herited the mess of 22 years of misrule by the Liberal government, not to mention the five years of worse misrule by the previous Conservative government. Among the many problems it had to face, possibly the most urgent was that of a steadily rising and steadily more consistent problem of unemployment.

For the first two years the government adopted two tried and true former solutions; first trying to ignore the problem and seeing if it would go away by itself, and the other being optimistic and hoping everything would turn out all right. It took two years for the government to realize that optimism and ignoring the issues were certainly no solution and so it started to look for some answers. It looked back through history but found no answer, because there never had been one under any previous Liberal or Conservative government. The only answers previously tried, were the two I have mentioned, optimism and ignoring the problem. They did not work any better now than they had in the past, and in fact did not work as well because there were two new problems involved, the automation problem and the fact that we did not have a world war come along to bail us out as we had always apparently been fortunate enough to have in the past.

Not being able to find any solutions in history, the government finally started looking for new solutions. As always, of course, when they look for new solutions they had to start listening to the members of this group. The trouble was, they only half listened. They heard members of this group get up time after time and point out the need of a retraining program for displaced employees and for the unemployed of this country, and the need for better training of our young people going into the work force. They listened to all this and thought "Maybe we should try that".

But they were then faced with a dilemma. How were they going to apply such a solution and save face? We had the picture of the Prime Minister going around the country mouthing talk about free enterprise, and on the other hand there was this democratic socialist measure which the government intended to adopt. How could they go about employing democratic socialist measures while at the same time preaching free enterprise?

I admit it is a difficult job, but they finally found what they thought to be a solution. They thought they could adopt the measures without using the methods. They thought