

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

certain requirements on the part of collective agreements, pension plans, people who are still full of vigour and have experience, who could be useful to this country and who could add to its productivity but whom we condemn to unemployment and inaction, to idleness, with all the evil results that can have on a man's mind and body.

And I would like to see included in the instructions which will be given to this board, one calling for an examination of all questions coming under the jurisdiction of the minister in the field of professional training of adults; I would like to see included an instruction recommending them to take special care of those labourers belonging to the 40, 45, 50, 55 years old or more group, who are still able to work but who, for all kinds of reasons I have no time to indicate here, like automation for example, are unemployed.

● (5:00 p.m.)

I believe tentative experiments have been conducted in this field: people aged 60, 65 and 70 still enjoying a good health and with considerable experience have been successfully working at their jobs, with the result that they can give useful service to their country. In my opinion, we should give those instructions so that this board would deal with this particular problem.

I would like to mention, among others, the duties imparted to the Advisory Board on the Adjustment of Immigrants, and I quote para. 2 of clause 20 in Bill C-150.

The board shall examine any matter pertaining to the minister where adjustment of the immigrants to Canadian life is concerned and shall report to the council on the aforesaid matter.

I wish to point out a special case which occurred in my own constituency, of which the minister has at least some knowledge, and I imagine that it might very well occur elsewhere.

In my constituency, there was a young immigrant, and in fact he is still there, who come to this country as a student. He attended a course in electricity, at the end of which he had to have six months' training on the job, as required by provincial legislation; otherwise, he would not get his licence as an electrician.

Now, the immigration office has refused him the right to work. I have been involved in this matter for about four or five months now, and I have yet to find out what went wrong, Mr. Speaker. Yet, it seemed so simple to me. I thought at one time that perhaps

[Mr. Mongrain.]

the immigrant had not clearly explained his position at first; at another time, I thought that the immigration official was so conscientious that he could not grant this student the right to work on account of something he had found somewhere. However, it seems that this six months on the job training period is part of the skill that he sought to acquire here, and if he is sent home without being allowed to work during those six months, he will not be able to leave with some diploma, some certificate of qualification, in brief, any certificate that would allow him to return to his country and be able to show that he is qualified. In any case, there is no lack of jobs for him, as several employers have requested his services.

I mention that case, Mr. Speaker, even though it is a special one that could have been settled in private, because I imagine the same thing could happen in other ridings, in other areas, and I suppose that this advisory board will see to it that organizations providing at least some right of appeal are established, if certain officials prove to be over-zealous.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it may not be in order to raise the following matter, but I crave your indulgence, since it deals nevertheless with unemployment and manpower.

My riding is faced with a problem which must probably exist elsewhere and which results in several persons being unemployed. Such unemployment could be remedied with greater latitude; I am now speaking of the so-called designated areas. In order to be designated, I know that areas must meet several criteria.

Now, in my riding, those conditions are drawn up bearing in mind that the area is urbanized, first of all the city of Trois-Rivières itself and the vast surrounding district. In Trois-Rivières itself salaries are quite high, because we are amongst the largest producers of newsprint in the world. On that basis, it is claimed that the area cannot be declared a designated area.

Now, here is what happens: certain industries could settle around Trois-Rivières, for instance, at Yamachiche, Pointe-du-Lac, Baie-Jolie, Saint-Étienne, and even at Sainte-Marthe-du-Cap which does not lie within my riding but in which I am interested as is my colleague for Champlain (Mr. Matte); but it seems those districts cannot be recognized as designated areas.

If this were achieved, there are a number of concerns which would like to operate in those localities. This would absorb a fair