

*Business of Supply*

purpose of which is to help Canada to retain her educated young people. The operation has two objectives which are, first, to keep Canadians studying at universities abroad informed about economic developments at home and job opportunities open to them here and, second, to ensure that they are as actively considered for these openings as they would be if they were resident in Canada. In carrying out this program the department has worked closely with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Public Service Commission, industry, and other interested organizations.

Prior to the program Canadians studying at foreign universities were not actively recruited for employment in Canada. Canadian business, universities and government showed little interest in them. But that has changed. As the *Financial Post* reported on March 16, 1968:

Because of the Department of Manpower's "Operation Retrieval", many of these students are likely to get job offers from Canadian employers.

In a nutshell, "Operation Retrieval" functions as an honest broker between Canadians studying abroad and employers in Canada who need highly trained manpower. It is a bridge which permits employers in Canada and Canadian scholars abroad to communicate with each other to their mutual benefit. For example, early in 1967, at a cost of about \$60,000 it set the pattern for its subsequent annual operations by sending six teams made up of academics and other professionals to 35 universities in the United States, Britain and Europe to speak with some 900 Canadian students who attended the scheduled meetings. It distributed to students abroad some 7,000 copies of a directory of employers and job opportunities available in Canada and provided prospective employers with some 4,000 resumés listing the names and individual qualifications of Canadian scholars abroad who had asked "Operation Retrieval" to help them find jobs in Canada. As a result, Canada manpower centres made some 6,000 referrals to employers.

Since then the program has continued and expanded. In the 1967-68 academic year 742 Canadians studying abroad asked "Operation Retrieval" to distribute their resumés to 2,500 employers who were then participating in the program. During the current academic year the teams completed their visits to United States universities last fall. As a result some 1,000 students have asked the department to

[Mr. MacEachen.]

distribute their resumés to some 2,700 employers currently involved in the scheme.

Canada does well and has recently been doing much better both in retraining Canadians at home and in attracting educated and skilled foreigners from other countries. Traditionally our brain influx from other countries has much more than made up for our brain drain to the United States. Recently we have also been doing much better with respect to the United States. Emigration from Canada to the United States fell from about 50,000 in 1962-63 to 35,000 in 1966-67. Immigration from the United States to Canada rose from 12,000 in 1963 to 19,000 in 1967 and to 20,000 in 1968. Our net deficit with the United States has thus fallen from about 39,000 in 1963 to about 16,000 in 1967. I am not suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that this result is entirely due to "Operation Retrieval". Nevertheless, I think hon. members will be pleased to know that our performance in this respect generally has been improving.

**Mr. MacInnis:** You are admitting a lot of draft-dodgers.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I doubt very much that the source my hon. friend has alluded to is a major one. I have been talking for quite a long time, Mr. Speaker, and have devoted myself entirely to the student aspect. I have talked about post-secondary education aspects affecting students, approvals with respect to the student loan fund, the summer employment problem and "Operation Retrieval". I would not wish to conclude my remarks without referring to the development of our manpower resources in the adult labour force. I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition did not pay some attention to our adult labour force. I know our students are important—we all understand they are important—but the adult Canadian labour force is also important, especially since it is made up to some extent of persons who have been passed by in earlier educational opportunities that may have been available and who in their later life have had to pick up the threads again. They are taking up the threads again either by taking upgrading courses or educational training.

**Mr. Valade:** Will the minister permit a question? Before leaving the subject of student employment could he inform the house of the number of students in each province who will be seeking employment this summer? I believe he gave up a total figure of 360,000 students seeking employment all across Canada. Could we have this figure