

Manpower and Immigration Council

Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will the minister inform the house whether early action can be anticipated to correct the situation whereby miners are excluded from the retraining and upgrading program that is available to all other workers in this country?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should like to have more details on this question because I do not agree with the hon. member's general statement. If he has particular cases in mind I should like to look into them.

FISHERIES**INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING BOARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric Stefanson (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary to the minister. In view of the present chaotic marketing situation for freshwater fish, does the minister now have specific plans for implementing the recommendations of the McIvor Commission to establish a freshwater fish marketing board?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this is a question of a very general nature and I doubt that it can be asked at this time.

MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION COUNCIL**PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, ADVISORY BOARDS, ETC.**

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the establishment of a Canada Manpower and Immigration Council, of advisory boards and of regional and local manpower committees; to provide also for the appointment of the members thereof, their remuneration, allowances and other expenses; and to provide further that all expenditures for the purpose of the act shall be paid out of moneys appropriated by parliament therefor.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Batten in the chair.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the bill proposed in the resolution is to reorganize the structure of the advisory

councils that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration may consult.

At present, three advisory boards have been transferred from the Department of Labour to the Department of Manpower and Immigration. They are the National Advisory Council on Technical and Vocational Training, the National Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of Disabled persons and the National Employment Advisory Committee. Regional and local committees also advise regional and local offices of the National Employment Service.

Those organizations have rendered valuable services, but none of them has been able to meet the full requirements of my department and in some respects, their duties are not as clearly defined as they should be.

[*English*]

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to rationalize the structure so as to give me the best possible benefit of outside advice about all of the department's activities. The bill provides for one council charged with the responsibility of looking at the field of manpower and immigration as a whole. This will be supported by four specialized boards in the major program areas of adult occupational training, vocational rehabilitation, the adjustment of immigrants to Canada and research on manpower and immigration. The bill also provides for continuing regional and local manpower committees.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Régimbal: Mr. Chairman, far be it from me to underrate the importance of the present resolution; but I believe that, generally speaking, the opposition is surprised, to say the least, that it is the first item on the orders of the day when such ticklish problems as housing and the cost of living are our citizens' prime concern. We are still anxiously seeking what measures the government should introduce, and soon, to solve those problems efficiently.

With regard to the present resolution, we note that by creating advisory councils and regional and local committees for the manpower division, the hon. minister seems to further the application of a principle established by the national employment offices. These, had indeed been successful in interesting and involving local organizations such as the chambers of commerce, school boards, managers of the existing factories, municipal councils and so on in winter works projects, for example, and in manpower orientation.