

Manpower and Immigration Council

that the minister had replied that a federal-provincial agreement was involved after I had indicated to him that only 80 candidates had been accepted by the Louis Hémon school board. So it is not the sole responsibility of the provincial member as the hon. member for Trois-Rivières seems to indicate—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has already made his speech, he cannot start over again.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me I could discern a question, even though it was wrapped up in all sorts of precautions. I presume you will allow me to reply rather briefly. Obviously, there is a federal-provincial agreement under which, as I understand it, Ottawa buys the training from Quebec. Quebec sells the training it can and will give and the federal must submit to the decision of the province, because if the province does not wish to sell the training, then the federal government is powerless. I know for a fact that Ottawa is prepared to buy all the training the unemployed might need. I am not trying to defend the minister, since I know he is able to defend himself. It is because I have lived through that experience at home and, at first, I had the same feelings of revolt that the hon. member has. However, the operation of the machinery was explained to me by both sides.

[English]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to be too long, and I certainly have no intention of holding up the debate, although I do hope that at some point we would get answers from the minister to some of the questions we have asked.

Mr. Marchand: The hon. member will have to complete his remarks before ten o'clock if he wants some answers tonight.

Mr. Orlikow: It is now before ten o'clock. But I want to say to the minister that perhaps I would not have taken the floor tonight had the minister treated me in the same way as he has treated some other hon. members. I have not quite figured out how he divides the sheep from the goats, and whether my colleague and deskmate, the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) is a sheep or a goat, because he received a letter from the minister answering some of the questions which he raised and even some he raised tonight, while I have raised the same questions with regard to the sharp drop in the number of

people who are taking retraining courses in Toronto, and particularly the sharp decrease in the number of immigrants who are able to take courses in English, and have never received an explanation from the minister as to precisely what are the reasons for that sharp drop.

The minister, of course, continues to assure us that the money is there and that in the coming year the department intends to spend more money than the federal government has ever spent in retraining. But the fact is that all the figures which we have been able to get from various sources indicate that the number of people taking the retraining courses in some of the big Canadian cities such as Toronto and Ottawa has decreased very sharply.

However, Mr. Speaker, I want to raise a question which was raised by my colleague, the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Schreyer), several weeks ago and about which I have some new information which I want to bring to the attention of the minister. I am not doing so with the hope or the expectation that he can do anything about it tonight, or even that he can answer the questions and doubts which have been raised and which I will recount, but I list them in the hope that the minister will look at these problems in the next couple of weeks and rectify what I think are serious errors in the approach to retraining on the part of his department. I am referring to the problems of training courses for Indians which have come to light in the province of Manitoba. I want to tell the minister that I hope we will not get the same answer from him on this problem as we received in connection with our criticisms and our questions about the training of immigrants. We were told then that we received our information from the wrong people, that is from the provincial departments of education which were really hostile to the department of manpower for reasons which were not justified.

The information which I will give the minister today, in connection with the catastrophic drop in the number of Indians in the province of Manitoba who are being trained in the retraining program, came to me from officials of another federal department, that which deals with Indians, namely the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. According to the information which I received today, in the last year, before the Department of Manpower and Immigration took over the whole program of manpower training, there were between 1,800