

demonstrates the necessity of planning for jobs instead of legislating in piecemeal fashion to train men and women for jobs which do not exist.

The hon. member for Essex West, who spoke earlier in the debate, said that no one can tell what the effects of automation are. Well, I suggest that that is not correct. I think we can tell what the effects of automation are. The Minister of Labour's own economics and research branch has produced a study called "Technological changes and their impact on employment and occupations", which shows quite clearly what have been the effects of automation. This was a study of five manufacturing industries undertaken in order to determine the effects of technological change and automation on employment in those five industries. The study shows that the number of people employed in producing goods in those five industries actually declined between 1950 and 1959, even though production itself had gone up immeasurably during that period. The study showed that automation reduces the number of people required to produce goods and services but brings about some increase in the number of people required to distribute, tabulate and administer the products of industry. But this trend or tendency is already declining. The Minister of Labour's economics and research branch study shows that the acceleration in the number of people employed in the so-called white collar field, people engaged in distributing and tabulating the products of industry, is already declining. What economists call office mechanization and automation are now beginning to make their impact felt on the white collar worker. So I suggest that it is a mistake for this committee to say that it must wait any longer to determine what the effect of automation is in Canada.

Unemployment and automation have already produced in Canada a lost generation of workers. This lost generation of workers consists chiefly of manual workers who have lost their jobs through a decline in economic activity or through the onset of age. As the hon. member who spoke just before me quite properly pointed out, it is almost impossible for a man of 45 to obtain employment nowadays. This lost generation of workers is unable to obtain employment today, not just because in some cases they do not possess the requisite skills, but because there are no jobs whatever available. Although, as I say, this lost generation of workers consists chiefly of manual workers, the impact of automation upon the white collar field will soon produce—if the government does nothing about it—a lost generation of white collar workers.

I know that my hon. friends opposite will be interested in any utterance which comes from an organization which has anything to do with the chartered banks. The Canadian Bankers' Association has announced that the banks are embarking upon a program of automation. There have now been developed in the United States machines, which are in use in some sections of the banking industry there, which replace up to 50 bookkeepers. The Canadian Bankers' Association no doubt intends to take advantage of this type of machinery in the conduct of the banking business of this country. They have said that no lay-offs will be entailed, but that when employees retire they will not be replaced. This is a kind of unemployment which we have failed to perceive as closely as in the case when lay-offs occur. Whenever an employee retires and is not replaced, the job available in that industry for a young applicant will no longer be available. I suggest to the committee that office mechanization and automation will soon be depriving white collar workers of jobs, and potential jobs, as rapidly as industrial automation and mechanization are depriving the blue collar workers of their jobs.

The resolution proposes incentives to encourage workers to move to areas where jobs are supposed to be available. Such a measure designed to bring people to capital will serve no purpose unless the government is prepared to take measures to bring capital to people, to bring jobs to people, to bring new industrial development to areas where labour and public services exist unused. There is a tendency in every modern industrial area for new industrial building to concentrate in crowded areas, causing congestion in those areas and unemployment elsewhere. These congested industrial areas have been described by economists as "conurbations". One economist has said that the word itself is an ugly one, but that it is the only one adequate to describe the economic results of the tendency of industry to congregate in areas which are already subjected to urban blight.

I suggest to the minister that he should keep in mind that by encouraging labour to move away from depressed areas he may aggravate unemployment in those same depressed areas. Let me give to the minister a better example of what I mean. If 10,000 unemployed persons are induced to leave a depressed area, it is a mistake to suppose that unemployment will decline by 10,000 in that depressed area. Because when 10,000 persons leave any area of this country, it means that there is a decline in the demand for goods and services in that area. Ten thousand persons are no longer buying groceries; 10,000