

Proposed Adult Education Council

school. I think that somehow we have to provide an opportunity for them to return. After all, the loss of people's brains is in my view the greatest waste we can possibly have. According to an article in the *Globe and Mail*, only 6.2 per cent of our people are classified as professional workers while in the United States the figure is 18.6. Only 16.3 per cent of our workers are classified as skilled whereas in the United States the figure is 32.9. In this age of automation we are going to have to keep up. This council may find that \$5 million for mental fitness is only a start when it comes to deal with this great problem.

The second reason I suggest is that we live in a dangerous age. Our survival depends on what men know and how they react to that knowledge. Ignorance is not bliss; it is annihilation. I think hon. members realize that we must be concerned about an aroused, misinformed and intolerant public opinion. I believe that adult education is necessary to keep people abreast of the problems of the world in which they live. I cite an example. We all know of the need to give aid to the undeveloped countries of the world. I remember hearing the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green), who is perhaps one of the greatest exponents of aid, say to an audience, "If we give any more, your taxes will go up".

I think we in this chamber often realize that there are some things it is hard to sell to the electorate, and I suggest that adult education so that we may have an informed public is one of the greatest assets of the kind of government democracy that all of us I am sure desire. Some may say that what I am suggesting would be a blow to freedom. I do not think the sports council is going to be a blow to freedom. I do not believe anybody is going to be forced to play football or run on a track. In my opinion we live in an age of advertising and selling techniques and we must sell adult education. We must focus attention on it in the same way that advertising agencies are focussing attention on other areas of our society. This is the reason why I think we need a federal focus.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Mr. J. C. MacRae (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I should like to compliment the hon. member who has introduced this resolution on the very fine dissertation he has given on this subject. A few years ago the slogan was used in education week that "education is everybody's business". I suppose the word "challenge" is more overworked than any other in this day and age,

but it seems to me, the greatest challenge we have in our domestic life today is in the field of education, not only education of our children but the education of our adults, the education of all Canadians. There was an excellent article in the January 20 issue of the *Toronto Telegram*, an excellent paper, written by Mr. Frank Drea, a *Telegram* staff reporter. He said this in part:

Canada's biggest economic fight is no longer against unemployment or the threatened loss of once secure markets but the frantic race against time to retrain the most obsolete work force in the western world.

So it seems to me that the problem throughout Canada is to get more and more of our unemployed adults to take training of some kind or other. The resolution refers to vocational and technical training and as I am especially interested in that field I should like to discuss it for a few minutes. I realize that others would also like to speak on this matter.

There is an unfortunate tendency in the country today to believe that if the dominion and the provinces provide school rooms and teachers for vocational and technical training then, as if by magic, the problem of the unskilled man without work will be solved. Some adult unemployed, and I have talked to many of them, as we all have, quickly fall into a mood close to despair, feeling that the world no longer wants them because they lack education or skills in demand. It is not enough to tell them that additional training schools have been and will be provided. Sunk in insecurity, many of them have to be assured that they are fit for training, that they can learn new skills—that, in short, they can have another chance. They need encouragement to restore self-confidence.

Better times are now coming in sight but this will not eliminate unemployment. Unfortunately there is a hard core that will not be eliminated for the simple reason that their jobs no longer exist and will never exist again. Perhaps one of the most common examples is that of elevator operators. Automatic elevators have made operators unnecessary in new buildings. That is automation. It means displacement. It demands that the community take some responsibility for seeing that those displaced are equipped for employment in other fields.

But a fine building and good teachers will achieve nothing unless the unemployed appear to take classes. To make the elderly, the discouraged, the disgruntled or the impatient come to regard vocational classes as their best friends will not be easy. It is apt to be even a harder job than finding the money for schools and for the hiring of teachers.