

Manpower and Immigration Council

That is my confession of faith in relation to immigration. I hope the bringing together of manpower and immigration questions under this council will in no way make immigration policy subservient or subordinate to manpower policy.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Chairman, when the house was last meeting in July I had laryngitis and was unable to make my views heard. I do not suppose anything I have to say this afternoon will make the minister wish this condition had continued as a permanent affliction; nevertheless, there are some mild criticisms I should like to make and some reservations I should like to express, at least until we have the bill before us.

Here is a minister who spends over \$300 million; he is the sixth ranking spender in the government hierarchy. Some of us have doubts about whether a young fellow, or at least one so young in parliamentary ways, should have so much spending money. I can tell him, however, that he has come here with a tremendous fund of good will on all sides, not only on the government side of the house, and we wish him well in his attempts to formulate new and important manpower policies in this technological age.

● (5:10 p.m.)

If we had any doubts they began with a bill that he brought before us in the spring. He had to introduce amendments to more than half its clauses, which gave a rather raffish air to the whole proceedings and at least suggested the legislation he presented has not really been thought out. However, since he is not a lawyer I will blame that shortcoming not on him but on his colleagues in government who should know better.

What has his policy accomplished to date? In an article in the *Monetary Times* of June, 1967, its Ottawa correspondent, Gordon Pape, had this to say, and I quote from page 31:

Ask a Manpower official what's been achieved since the department came into *de facto* existence in January, 1966 (although things weren't made official until October), and he'll mention such things as a smoother seasonal farm program, slightly improved service in the Canada Manpower Centres (formerly National Employment Service offices)—

Mr. Munro: Would the hon. member please repeat the name of that magazine and the date of issue?

Mr. McCleave: Yes, certainly. The article was in the *Monetary Times* of June, 1967, [Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

and what I am quoting is found on page 31. I continue the quotation:

—and aid to the economically-stricken residents of Newfoundland's Belle Isle. But impact on the Country as a whole? Virtually nil.

To those who wanted instant action, it's a pretty poor show for a department that's due to spend almost \$313,000,000 of the taxpayers' money during the current fiscal year—a figure that's exceeded by only five other ministries.

Our problem, sir, is the effective use of manpower in Canada or of manpower that is going to be attracted to this country. To the extent that the minister is able to make effective use of that manpower, to use it to increase our productivity and make us economically more healthy, he will have achieved the purposes of his policies.

One thing that pleases me in the setting up of this manpower council and immigration council is the fact that what used to be conflicting sides of the problem are in effect being melded. I have said "conflicting sides," and to make my point very quickly and perhaps very forcefully I point out that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development observed last year:

There is evidence that many Canadian employers have tended to neglect on-the-job training partly because they are accustomed to a large inflow of skill through immigration.

If the manpower and immigration council and the department live up to their responsibilities we hope that this shortcoming on the Canadian scene will be corrected.

I hope the council will have the power to provide a better welcome to those entering Canada as immigrants. I will look anxiously at the bill to see if the council has such power. I represent an area which is a port of entry for a large number of immigrants to Canada. I have heard complaints about the rosy heaven promised to these immigrants in other lands and the drab, gray, austere sort of welcome they receive, the barest opening of a door to let them into a grim and dingy shed where they may have to spend hours or days before going on somewhere else. That is the welcome given them by this country, and this is particularly true of Italian immigrants to Canada.

I would hope that the manpower and immigration council, together with the minister and his officials, would do something about that situation which results in Canada and my area in particular being given a very poor name. We have good hotels in Halifax and immigrants could be accommodated in them. They should not have to linger and