

Business of Supply

Department of Manpower or the federal government but requires the co-operation of both the federal and provincial governments. In this regard I am delighted to see that the province of Ontario is undertaking a special campaign along these lines. I hope other provinces will do likewise and that private employers will co-operate so that we will be able to create the largest possible number of openings this summer. This will enable all young Canadians who want to work to do so before returning to their university careers in the fall.

I want to say a few words about the question of retrieval or retention. The Leader of the Opposition gave the impression that Canada was doing badly in regard to the brain drain. I should like to begin my comments on this subject by mentioning what must be evident to all of us, namely, that we are living in a world of great mobility. National boundaries are becoming, so far as people are concerned, less and less important. Young people in Canada who want a career in the United States, or who want a university education either in the United States or in some other country, cannot be kept here by force of law. They can be kept here, it seems to me, only as a result of freely deciding to remain as they calculate the attractions that the future in this country has for them.

This is not to say that the department or the government should not take an active interest in this field; we have been doing so, as I want to point out. Nevertheless, if Canada does lose people from time to time, as the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, it is also the beneficiary of persons coming to Canada from other countries. If I recollect correctly, last year Canada brought within its boundaries about 1,200 trained medical practitioners; at least, 1,200 persons came to Canada who will find a place in the medical profession either immediately or later.

Mr. Hales: How many are still here?

Mr. MacEachen: I do not have any figures showing how many have left. But more than 10,000, perhaps close to 12,000, refugees were brought to Canada from Czechoslovakia, a high proportion of whom were professionally skilled. While Canada was moved by humanitarian reasons, we certainly gained in the acquisition of skills and education by welcoming these people. It is not a one-way street in this regard. It so happens that Canada is losing on the one side and gaining on the other.

I think Canada is improving on its performance in this respect. In the Department of Manpower and Immigration there is a special program in effect which has been described as "Operation Retrieval".

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the minister but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the house give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I realize the minister has limited time but would he do me the honour of dealing with some of the questions I raised before he concludes his remarks?

Mr. MacEachen: I hope I have been demonstrating to the hon. gentleman that the policies of the government have already anticipated his amendment. All the programs I have been mentioning are really efforts in the public sector to develop manpower resources. I have also referred to the hon. gentleman's proposal having to do with a special corps of young people. Before I finish I hope to speak about other subjects. If the hon. member wishes to ask questions at the end of my remarks, I will do my best to answer them.

● (5:00 p.m.)

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, would the minister care to comment on the central thrust of my argument, which is that we need to shift the balance of investment? We need to invest much more in the public, productive sector of our economy, and the shift must be away from the private sector.

Mr. Jamieson: Is the hon. member referring to the automobile industry?

Mr. MacEachen: If I had statistics with me here I am sure they would demonstrate to my hon. friend that this shift has been going on and undoubtedly will continue to do so. We are concerned not only about developing resources in Canada. We also want to retain in Canada the resources we have and we want to stem the drain of highly qualified workers to the United States in particular.

With this in mind we have, since 1966, taken over the organizing and full financing of a continuing program internationally known as "Operation Retrieval", the specific