

organization of projects and their execution to the youthful participants was a beneficial experience for many. However, OFY remained a peripheral program in the total manpower policy field. The decision to provide funds for it each year was rightly weighed against other demands to finance wider manpower objectives. In this context OFY had a low priority in the opinion of the Committee.

Student Manpower Programs

It seems appropriate at this point to state that a preferable form of assistance is provided for students seeking summer employment by the continuing program mounted especially for them through Canada Manpower Centres. The Committee was told that in 1974 more than 300 Student Manpower Centres were opened. These Centres placed 216,740 students in jobs in the private sector, where 85 per cent of all summer jobs materialize. In the same summer Opportunities for Youth created jobs for 27,525. Employers have been encouraged by the Division through a deliberate campaign of advertising and by the direct appeal of officials to make employment available to students during the holiday season. The Division should continue the operation of specialized Student Manpower Centres wherever appropriate. Every CMC should have a clearly defined student employment referral activity in operation.

The Committee recommends continuance of the Student Manpower Centres because they provide a placement facility for students seeking holiday employment as well as assisting employers who require seasonal workers. It also supports the public relations programs designed to encourage employers to provide jobs for students.

Local Initiatives Program (LIP)

The LIP program began and continues as a direct response to an economic need. In the fall of 1971 when the rate of unemployment reached six per cent in Canada LIP was initiated as a replacement for the usual *ad hoc* winter works programs. It was designed to draw on the direct initiative of local community groups and municipalities. The program provides federal contributions through individual contracts to finance labour-intensive community improvement projects of a non-profit nature. The maximum contribution per project was \$75,000 in 1974-75, and \$100,000 in 1975-76. This represents a reduction from \$200,000 in 1972-73 and \$500,000 in the first year 1971-72.

Regulations for putting a project into operation are quite precise. All projects must create not less than 15 man-months employment for a period not to exceed 26 weeks.¹ Project sponsors must hire workers through Canada Manpower Centres, where priority is given to suitable applicants receiving UIC benefits or welfare payments. Those hired must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. They may not be members of the sponsor's immediate family. The Department pays sponsors up to \$140 a week. Employee participants receive

¹Figures quoted are for the year reviewed by the Committee, 1974-75.