

Supply—Manpower and Immigration

and we will do our best to meet and solve those problems.

It is very obvious, I believe, that an active, co-ordinated manpower policy can make an enormous contribution to our economic and social progress. It is the response we have to make to accelerating technological change, which requires us all to adjust our ways of work on a scale and with a frequency that are quite new to human experience. But while it is all very well to see the need and legislate the necessary organization into existence, what counts is to make it work. My department exists to serve people, to meet individual needs. Our task is to offer people the information, advice and assistance which will enable them to push open the door to greater economic opportunity. This can only be done person to person.

I believe we have set up the right kind of organization. We have made the right changes in the programs. We are trying to bring our services to the Canadian people where they are needed, how they are needed, when they are needed. I would be the last person to make any large claims for what we have actually achieved so far. We have not set out to get easy, quick results. We have set out to build properly, but I think we are building fast enough to look forward before too long to being able to say that Canada clearly has the best manpower programs and services in the world. I will not be satisfied with any lesser achievement.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say at once that the field covered by the Department of Manpower and Immigration is one of special importance. Expenditures of the department for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968, are listed at almost \$313 million, and a few moments ago the minister said, definitely that these expenditures will be added to by supplementary estimates yet to come before us. However, his department is a rarity among departments in that the estimates show a decline of some \$25 million compared with last year. Some \$20 million of the estimated expenditures comes under the immigration division. Consequently about \$293 million is left to be expended on manpower services.

Our job as legislators is to determine whether the expenditures are justifiable. If they are not then they should be criticized. Vote 10 commits the government to an expenditure of \$206 million, in respect of the field of development and utilization of manpower. Of this amount, \$120 million is set aside for capital assistance to trade and vocational

schools, most of which is now being phased out.

• (3:40 p.m.)

I should like to say a few words about this program which dates back to June of 1961. That was the time the agreements were signed by most of the provinces with the exception of Quebec, which signed later. This is a program which did a great deal to provide the very necessary facilities for the training of our labour force both in the youth and adult groups. After the present government came into office it established a quota basis, based on the per capita of population, and applied it to the moneys already received. Consequently those provinces which had not utilized this program prior to this government coming into office had made available to them millions of dollars for the construction of new schools. This was based on the old agreement in respect of which the federal government had participated to the extent of 75 per cent of the total cost and the provinces to the extent of 25 per cent. This had the effect of alleviating the tax burden on the municipalities for the construction of these facilities.

Other provinces, and I am referring particularly to Ontario, had utilized this program to the extent that when the quotas were set by this government they found they had very little entitlement under the program to the 75 per cent participation by the federal government. Under the quota system the federal government participates only to the extent of 50 per cent. The province of Ontario, which I take only as an example, is a very heavily industrialized province in which a high level of skill is required. An industry in that province which has exceeded the 50 per cent ceiling receives no benefit from the federal government except through the issuing of debentures. These are related to the number of trainees who participate. If there are 500 trainees in a particular school in Ontario, and only 50 are eligible through federal government referrals, then federal participation would be to the extent of only 10 per cent of the total cost of construction. This is most unfair. It places a burden on provinces which are endeavouring to establish the necessary training facilities. The need now is just as great if not greater than it was in 1961. Our labour force is expanding year after year. Instead of a curtailment in the participation of the federal government there should be an acceleration. We must make certain that facilities are available so that skills and