

Supply—Labour

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: Take that back.

Mr. Mitchell: No, I will not take it back. The woods are full of what I call economic and financial crackpots, and in my judgment they got the world into more trouble than the working people ever did. One need only go to some of these international conferences and take a look at these international gypsies who roam around all over the world from conference to conference. That is why I am a great believer in technical education. Recently I was in Vancouver when they opened a magnificent technical school there. Strange to say, I opened a technical school in Victoria. I thought I would never live to see the day when a technical school would be opened in the city of Victoria. That just shows the development that has taken place; and in every province in Canada I think it has been quickened by the leadership given by the parliament of Canada in connection with technical education. My mind goes back to the establishment of the first royal commission on technical education. I knew some of the members of that commission which brought about the Vocational Education Act and made possible to a large degree the establishment of technical institutions in Canada.

In passing let me say also, if I may be permitted to do so in a humble way, that I was secretary of the national labour supply council, which worked out the principles underlying the war training that was given. After the fall of France in 1940 in co-operation with the municipalities and provinces, we set in motion a scheme that made possible the education, in a technical sense, of the men and women engaged in war industries and also those in the armed forces. I pay this tribute to the three divisions of government—the municipalities, the provinces and the dominion. I think it is only fair to say that in passing.

Most of the other matters will come up in detail on the estimates.

Mr. Noseworthy: What about the increased grant?

Mr. Mitchell: What grant is that?

Mr. Noseworthy: The grant recommended by the council.

Mr. Mitchell: Do you mean the resolution you read?

Mr. Noseworthy: Yes.

[Mr. Mitchell.]

Mr. Mitchell: My hon. friend can rest assured that, as far as I personally am concerned, I will see that it is considered by the government. I will play my part in that regard. I think that is all I shall say at the moment. I have spoken in general terms of the basic principles raised by my hon. friends in this discussion. I do not know whether I have missed anything. If I have, perhaps they will remind me of it when we get into the items.

Mr. Isnor: What about the question I asked?

Mr. Mitchell: The hon. member is speaking of the longshoremen.

Mr. Isnor: Yes.

Mr. Mitchell: The question is being studied at the moment.

Mr. Isnor: And favourable consideration is being given to it?

Mr. Mitchell: Well—

Mr. Knowles: Will the minister answer the other question asked by the senior member for Halifax? He asked whether the Department of Labour was drawing to the attention of other departments of government his recommendations with respect to the employment of people over forty.

Mr. Mitchell: That is generally understood. I would say that I do not have to draw it to anyone's attention. Everybody knows the problem. I think it can be said that through the unemployment offices great strides have been made in an educational way to assist those older people in obtaining employment, and also the handicapped. We have gone a long way in the last ten years in that regard. May I say also that employers lack judgment when they will not employ a person because he is forty years of age. In most cases the person is married and has all the stability that goes with that. They are trying to raise a family. I hope that the discussion here today will raise the question in an educational way right across the dominion.

Mr. MacInnis: I do not mind the Minister of Labour being vague in answering questions and in being adept at covering them up with aphorisms, maxims, clichés and all that sort of thing.

Mr. Graydon: Those are big words.

Mr. MacInnis: I have been associating with government departments for a long, long time. I know how far you can get in a government department if you have not a university education, in spite of all the fools that come out of the universities.