

Manpower and Immigration Council

the local committee particularly, I hope the minister and his officials would make sure that people who have had intimate experience with this kind of activity would be chosen from the communities. I know we have had officials with a good deal of experience in problems of chronic unemployment and the upgrading of educational opportunities and so on, but very often people who have something very valuable to contribute are passed over perhaps because they are non-partisan or because there are other people who feel they have a right to be rewarded in this way.

I plead that we not use this particular agency as a means of rewarding people for good political service. We should endeavour to obtain people who will provide the most effective contribution possible so that the whole program will go forward. If we make this clear now, then I think in the future there will be a realization that regardless of the party in power we should have people who have the most to contribute.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, I wish to reassure my friend that I do not believe the situation which worries him is going to arise. If we want to set up special committees it is important that we do not work along political lines. This would not be possible; it would not work. I do not believe this has been done either under the Conservative government or the Liberal government. If representatives are required on a national level it is necessary to confer with the labour movement, the employers' association, the consumers association and so on. The only way to do it is to ask these associations to recommend somebody. It would not be right for me to say that a certain person is to represent the Canadian Labour Congress, for example. I do not think the government of Canada could do this and I am sure if it were done the C.L.C. would complain about it. There is only one place where there could be political influence; that is in the nomination of the presidents.

● (8:40 p.m.)

There could be some influence there because the president is nominated by the government, not necessarily following the recommendation of the private organization. I do not think you should be afraid of these boards becoming political instruments because of this set-up. This has not been true in respect of other governments and it could not now be true for the reasons I have given you.

I was president of the C.N.T.U. for a while and I would have liked to see the government try to designate a man to represent the

[Mr. MacDonald (Prince).]

C.N.T.U. without consulting us. That would not be possible. This might have been attempted, but I am sure the appointed individual would not have been successful. This man would be denounced just as one individual who was appointed to the unemployment advisory committee was denounced. I remember this very well. There was a protest and the situation was corrected. This does not really seem to me to be a serious problem. If there is a problem, surely it is not in respect of this part of the bill.

As far as co-operation with the provinces is concerned, I think you are right. We should seek whatever co-operation we can get. The difficulty is that one cannot force co-operation on someone else. Both parties have to be in agreement. As far as we are concerned, not only are we going to ask for co-operation, we hope to receive it. These programs cannot work without co-operation on the part of those who are interested and involved in these programs. However, one cannot force co-operation. I am reminded of the words of Voltaire. He wanted to build a society in which everyone was free. Someone asked him what would happen if someone decided he did not want to be free. Voltaire replied that he would be compelled to be free. Certainly, we hope for co-operation but we must rely to some extent on the provinces themselves.

[Translation]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I should then like to ask the minister what criteria he intends to use in the selection of the chairmen of the various commissions.

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, what criteria? We will appoint the most competent men we can find.

[English]

Clause agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

On clause 23—*Appropriations*

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, clause 23 reads as follows:

The minister shall make available to the council or a board, or any regional or local manpower committee such information within his possession or otherwise available to him as the council, board or committee reasonably requires for the proper discharge of its functions.

I quite agree with the terms of that clause, but because this is experimental legislation which has the support of everyone in the house, at least in principle, and because there