

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

Bell) rightly urged that the councils should be truly rooted in the population and that the department should not merely be a bureaucracy, but that the people be integrated in the administration of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. I agree with him but, on the other hand, one of his colleagues said that the minister is being deprived of his responsibilities and wants those responsibilities to be shifted on to intermediate bodies or to boards of his own making. Now, I should like to know what is really the policy of the opposition in that field.

As suggested by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. McCleave), a great number of persons will surely be called upon to sit on those committees. In answer to the hon. member for Carleton, I must say that if the people are to be really represented on those bodies, they must be sought where they are, in the localities, the small towns, in the various areas, and our advisory committees are set up in such a way that all those people may be represented.

I would then suggest to the hon. member for Carleton, and to the hon. member for Halifax, that they might meet to try to determine exactly what their aims are and to see whether they have anything in common as far as manpower policy is concerned.

When I said that this was a rather simple bill, I did not mean to imply that it is not important. Quite the opposite, it is important. It is important, but in substance, that is, as far as the thinking behind it is concerned there is nothing new. Not only is there nothing new but as far as the number of people is concerned, if this can be a relief to the hon. member for Halifax, I do not think there are that many more people sitting on our advisory committees than there were under the former legislation or even under the former government.

When we consider the number of people sitting on the advisory committee of the National Employment Service, the regional offices, the local offices, the Vocational Training Advisory Council, the National Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, if you add them all together, I hardly believe that we are adding very many people to what existed before. The only thing we are doing is that we are consolidating all these committees so that they may work together.

Mr. Speaker, those manpower problems cannot be kept completely apart. We have employment and training problems, the problem of mentally retarded or disabled persons;

there is also the problem of immigration and adjustment of immigrants in this country. All of them constitute a whole and we have been in a position to establish advisory committees which are brought together at a given time to discuss the manpower problem as a whole and not under its various aspects. I believe that is an improvement.

For the establishment of those boards, we took the advice—and this is not an unprecedented fact—of representative bodies.

The member for Halifax (Mr. McCleave) seems to have discovered a problem with regard to the difficulty of choosing between a member of the Confederation of National Trade Unions and a representative of the Canada Labour Congress and he wonders what we are going to do. It has been done here, in Ottawa, for the last 25 years, under every government. When you want someone from the CNTU, you go to the CNTU; if, at the same time, you want someone from the CLC, you ask the CLC to appoint a representative. On the other hand, if you want someone from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, you go to the officials of that association. Indeed, if that is the only problem the minister has to solve this year, I can assure you we will solve it rapidly. The member need not worry; there are precedents, the way is paved and I need not even strain my imagination to give him that assurance.

• (4:00 p.m.)

Now, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) raised an important question with which we are deeply concerned. However, at this time, I think the problem is solved and the information she has obtained was undoubtedly provided before July 18 last; at least, I suppose so because had she secured this information later than July 18, it would mean that the people who provided her with the information were not aware of the agreements arrived at with the provincial governments.

Let us say that on that date of July 18, we came to an agreement with the provinces, so that they will advise us what training they will be providing to the workers.

There is a list of agreements and, for our part, we have undertaken to fill a given number of places which have been determined through negotiation with the provinces.

So, if there is, shall we say, 50 places in one course, and we have undertaken to take over 40, we will be paying for these places whether they are occupied or not, that is to say we will be giving the school boards and