

*Supply—Labour*

the long and valuable services to Canada of the gentleman who up to recently has been deputy minister of labour for Canada, Arthur MacNamara.

This public servant during recent years has done much constructive thinking and able execution through the medium of this Department of Labour. He has given of his very best in the service of Canada and of his fellow Canadians, and in so doing he has inspired those who came under his direction and guidance. To me it has been a great privilege to be associated with him in this department.

It will be noted that for 1953-54 I am asking for \$665,297 less than was asked for in 1952-53. There is no substantial change in staff strength of the department. The estimates also include a new vote, No. 188, to provide for a women's bureau, and a substantial increase in vote No. 196 to implement a program for the rehabilitation of the disabled. I shall give more information on both of those later.

Another increase, it may be noted, is under vote 186, for the organization and use of agricultural manpower, but this is not a true increase, as an offsetting decrease is taken under vote 199 of the unemployment insurance commission. I shall go into this more fully later.

I want to go back to the women's bureau. The women's organizations, speaking for large numbers of women, have been urging upon the government for some time that there are special problems facing women workers which should be given special attention. They say that adequate information is not always available in Canada pertaining to women workers, and that there is a need for more study and analysis of the basic facts about the employment of women and the opportunities for their employment. Also there appears to be need for intimate study of the particular problems of women in special situations, such as those who are both workers and homemakers or older women who might become self-supporting. It is believed that some women in employment are handicapped by some common prejudices of employers which are not founded on fact, and women think it is the responsibility of the Department of Labour to study the problems peculiar to women workers and establish facilities for making the results of such studies available to women's groups.

We therefore propose to establish a senior position in the department to be filled by a competent woman whose duty it will be to keep in close touch with national organizations concerned with the problems of

employed women, and to develop a women's bureau within the department. Amongst the bureau's functions will be a continuing review of what is being done by governmental and other agencies in this field, and the establishment of means for making the information available. In doing this we are recognizing that the problems raised by women's groups deserve attention. At the same time we must take care to avoid any duplication of present services. I am confident that the new women's bureau will play a very valuable part in the improvement of the status of women in Canada's great production program.

I call your attention to item 196. I am going to take time to deal with that one at some length. The need for a properly co-ordinated plan to rehabilitate Canada's disabled civilians has become increasingly evident. Because of this, a national conference was called by this government in 1951. The meeting of over 300 delegates, with every province officially represented, was sponsored by the departments of national health and welfare, veterans affairs and labour. Acting upon its recommendations a national advisory committee on rehabilitation was set up. This committee, composed of official representatives of each province, the federal departments I have named, the medical profession, employers, labour and voluntary welfare agencies and universities, first met in February, 1952. Since then it has met on two occasions.

In November of last year the executive of the committee outlined to the government the broad principles which they considered should be followed in a rehabilitation program. In keeping with the recommendations thus made to us, that is not only to this department but to my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare, we hope to reach agreement with each of the provinces very soon regarding the steps to be taken. In the meantime, in Mr. Ian Campbell we have found a national co-ordinator with long practical experience in the rehabilitation field with the workmen's compensation board of Ontario, proved good administrative ability and the possession of the qualifications necessary to organize and direct the newly formed civilian rehabilitation branch. Since his appointment in June, 1952, he has visited every province and has done something toward encouraging existing provincial, voluntary and civic efforts.

Under the provisions of the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act, through the special placement facilities of the unemployment insurance commission services essential to rehabilitation can be, and are being,