

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

But most, because of an inability to speak and understand English, are not now able to work at the trade or occupation they were trained in.

Usually they have been forced to take lower-paying low-skill or labouring jobs. And all have expressed a desire and willingness to learn English.

Mr. Yunker and the staff at the adult education centre sympathize with these immigrants. Mr. Yunker, with 12 years experience teaching English to immigrants, knows how tough it will be for them to learn English.

He knows that many of them will attend the two and a half hour classes three nights a week tired and hungry after working 8 to 12 hours.

"A lot of them don't have time to go home after work. They come here right from work in their work clothes without having eaten supper. It's pretty rough to concentrate under those circumstances."

The article continues:

The advantages of day school classes are numerous. Students spend four times as much time in classes than in night school. There is more continuity between lessons. Day students get less discouraged because they are progressing rapidly.

And because the immigrants are "exceptionally conscientious and well motivated," they learn quickly.

Since its inception, the program has proved to be very successful, said Mr. Yunker. He cited numerous examples of immigrants who, having completed the five-month course, were able to get good jobs which they couldn't have held prior to taking the English classes.

And the costs for such a program are more than made up for by the economic benefits which occur when an immigrant works at a skilled trade or profession.

"If these people are brought to Canada for a purpose, then our job should be to put them into that field as soon as possible. The sooner we get them into the proper field, the sooner they'll be an asset to the country."

● (5:40 p.m.)

But since March 21, the local manpower office, which must refer immigrants to the adult education centre for day English classes, has not sent one immigrant to the centre.

Mr. Yunker and the staff at the centre can't understand why.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that neither can the rest of the country. The article goes on to point out another difficulty that immigrants to this country are encountering. It is documented in this way, and I quote from the *Record* again:

A few months ago, an immigrant arrived in the Twin Cities. There was nothing unusual or special about the immigrant, he was just an average sort.

The immigrant, a man in his early 20's, was full of ambition and was willing to do anything to build a future in Canada for his wife and two small children.

[Mr. Salzman.]

And although he didn't speak or understand English, the immigrant did succeed in finding a job in a local factory shortly after he arrived.

Two and one half months later, disaster struck. The immigrant got caught in a punch press he was operating. Both of his hands had to be amputated.

Company safety officials investigating the unfortunate tragedy believe the accident was caused in large part by the immigrant's inability to understand English.

These things happen, Mr. Speaker, and have happened in this country before. We all know of instances where French Canadians have gone to work in factories where the signs were posted in English and, not understanding the English language, experienced similar difficulties. We are very much concerned about this problem today. As a matter of fact, we are paying a terrible price in national unity today because we did not anticipate and do something about the problem 20 or 30 years ago when it should have been tackled. Let us not make the same mistake with immigrants who come to this country. Surely we have learned something from our history.

I realize that the minister does have some difficulties. I do not know what they are exactly but he must not be complacent about them. I suggest to the minister that he not only investigate further the articles to which I have referred today but that he look at the remainder of these seven articles which document the experiences of immigrants in the twin city area. It does not make very pleasant reading. I suggest that unless something is done about this situation our whole manpower and immigration policy in this country will be seriously jeopardized. We will also lose that great degree of sympathy which now exists for the work that has been undertaken in this direction.

I suggest to the minister that he rethink this problem, that he not be tied to the idea that because one province feels it cannot go along with a certain program every other province in Canada must take the same medicine. Surely such an approach is not the answer. There must be some way to satisfy the natural and legitimate aspirations of a province which is different, one which has different objectives and outlooks from other provinces in Canada, without forcing the provinces which wish to co-operate with the federal government in a combined program to adopt a similar stand. This to me does not seem to be the way to get a good manpower policy or to strengthen confederation. This to me seems to be an abdication of the responsibility of the federal government in this field