

Government Organization

with the principle of unemployment insurance itself. Today we come to the proposal that parliament vest in the government the right to deal with the development and utilization of manpower resources in Canada. This having been passed, parliament then has occupied the field.

I believe, and have said so in this house, that in order for this parliament and this government to function properly in areas such as this, there can be uncontestedly only one authority, and that authority should be the federal parliament. If these words are taken in their ordinary everyday meaning, the federal government and parliament having occupied the field there can be no question of provincial jurisdiction. True enough, the minister and the government will have to consult with the provincial governments. This is only proper and right, but I would discard all the rest of the legislation. However, I would be prepared to support the government in this one particular aspect of its plans in connection with this bill. One tries very hard to find something to praise the government about, and no matter how hard he tries very seldom is he able to do it.

An hon. Member: Don't try too hard.

Mr. Baldwin: I have been trying to do so for three years and always have come up with a zero.

An hon. Member: All miserable failures.

Mr. Baldwin: How this happened to creep into it I do not know. The law officers of the crown who chose these words are to be commended, because in my opinion, in this area where jurisdiction must be established essentially in the federal government, it is about time this government moved, and in this one particular aspect it seems to have done so. I understand from the reply just made by the minister to the hon. member for Lapointe that it is the government's intention to give this phrase the very widest possible meaning.

● (9:40 p.m.)

Clause agreed to.

Clause 12 agreed to.

On clause 13—*Duties of minister.*

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I should first of all like to say that I support this bill whole heartedly, as I think it represents a good move on the part of the government in putting manpower and immigration together.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

I should like to ask the minister one or two questions in respect of clause 13. What reorganization will be required in local offices throughout the country in order to give effect to this change, if it is adopted?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, we intend to co-ordinate all the services related to manpower, including retraining, mobility allowances, placement and special services for youth, women and handicapped. I do not know what the name of the new service will be, but we will find an appropriate one. In any event, all these services will be under the one head.

Mr. Herridge: I have one more question I should like to ask. Will this move necessitate the recruitment of specialized staff trained to do certain work not previously done by the department?

Mr. Marchand: Are you referring to trained personnel for the department or for employers?

Mr. Herridge: I refer to personnel for the department.

Mr. Marchand: There is no doubt that we will have to train new personnel, and we are carrying out that training program at this time.

Mr. Starr: When the original transfer of the national employment service from the Department of Labour to the department of manpower was made, examinations were given to the employees transferred. They were advised that those examinations were void and had no meaning. Will the minister explain what happened in this regard.

Mr. Marchand: The results of the examinations held are not void or without meaning. They are still in existence and valid, but are not being used in themselves to evaluate the abilities of each employee. Many other criteria are being used in this regard. The results of these examinations are not being used exclusively in evaluating the abilities of these people.

Mr. Starr: Will the minister indicate what other criteria are being used, in addition to these civil service examinations?

Mr. Marchand: The other criteria being used include the known competence of employees, their experience in the department and other qualities which do not show up as a result of the examinations.