

Business of Supply

century, may even be called the development of human resources, because this is what it is all about. "Manpower" is perhaps a rather narrow term. It refers to man as an economic and productive unit. But with the reduction of the number of working hours in the week it is quite possible that the next generation in this house will not only be speaking about manpower resources but about Canadian human resources. This will be for the good, I submit.

We also look forward to better resolving some difficult areas in relation to manpower. For instance, there is the question of rehabilitation of those who have been injured at work, the whole question of the services to be made available to people who have to learn a new skill because of an accident at work. These men who are usually middle aged, who have a modest education or perhaps none at all, are at a stage in life when they must adjust to a new physical condition, a new environment and again become the breadwinner of the family. This is a question which probably affects several thousand Canadians from coast to coast.

I cite another example, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to the development of new techniques in the training of immigrant tradesmen, immigrant technicians and professionals in order that they may make a more rapid adjustment to Canadian methods so their abilities may be absorbed into our industrial environment at a faster pace without the loss of talent, without underemployment and so forth.

We look forward to amendments to the Adult Educational Training Act. Amendments may be necessary as we gain experience through the years, as we realize certain weaknesses and can see that certain improvements can be introduced; for instance, with reference in particular to the three-year waiting period required to become eligible for training after having left school unless one has dependants to support. Other amendments may also be necessary.

We look forward to the role of Canada manpower centres in large urban communities. This is a role which perhaps can be expanded, made broader than it is at present, in which these manpower centres would reach out into the neighbourhood. A number of services could be generated from these centres. We have over 300 centres from coast to coast and their potential is substantial. They could be made the focal centre of the communities when it comes to searching for

jobs, obtaining guidance counselling and other services.

We look forward to new pilot projects. One was completed just recently in the city of Toronto for the training of labourers during the winter in order to make them more flexible and adaptable to the requirements of their industry. This was a very successful training scheme and it might set the pattern for future ones. We look forward to experimenting in the field of tradesmen training, particularly those who come from overseas and for whom there is a very great demand. These people have to adapt to provincial laws and requirements.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we also look forward to learning from those countries which have progressed even further than we have. We look forward to gaining from them experience and techniques which may be adapted to Canadian conditions. These are the things we would like to add to the context of this debate. We would like to hear proposals and suggestions as to how this program can be improved. Where are the ideas from members of the opposition? They have criticized. Let them not limit themselves to outlining the problems. That is the easiest approach. Let us hear from them what they would do if the responsibility were theirs.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) has challenged us on this side of the house to propose some concrete ideas and suggestions to the minister and the department. I intend to do just that. I do not regard it as a particularly difficult assignment inasmuch as the Department of Manpower and Immigration has been in operation now for a few years and in my opinion has made mistakes in the administration of the legislation passed by this house. I also believe there are serious flaws in the existing manpower legislation. I have in mind in particular the Occupational Training for Adults Act, to which I shall refer in some detail in a few minutes.

By way of introduction, I say that Canada is fortunate in not being one of those countries which faces a crisis in the sense that it has a serious problem of underutilization of manpower. There are some countries, even in the so-called western industrialized world, that have facing them imminent prospects of almost a civil insurrection because there exists in the ghettos of their bigger cities a large pool of unused, unemployed and underemployed manpower allowed to waste away

[Mr. Caccia.]