

"The LEAP program is probably the key to our efforts in job creation and it will be a spearhead of much of the Community Employment Strategy", Mr. Manion told the Committee. (7:22) In addition to LEAP, it is expected that the Division will bring into play many other existing services through the action of the Canada Manpower Centres in the target areas. All the specialized programs for the disadvantaged in both placement and training are relevant, including the services purchased from outside agencies through Outreach. The emphasis however, on the part of the Division will be to utilize as far as possible private sector jobs before extending its commitments in direct employment programs.

The new thrust in manpower policy embodied in the Community Employment Strategy is the deliberate planning of a cooperative attack on an old and widespread problem for which federal, provincial and municipal funds have long been available, but which could be more effectively applied in concert. The Minister identified the key point in the initiation of this new approach:

The most delicate part of the Community Employment Strategy, from my personal observation, is to get the break-through in recognizing that we and the provinces particularly, and beyond that the communities and other people engaged in this whole area, have to work together rather than in some kind of competition or opposition. (11:13)

To avoid raising expectations beyond the ability of the Division to fulfill them, the Division is moving cautiously to implement the Community Employment Strategy. In assuming the role of co-ordinator of all available federal and provincial as well as private resources the Canada Manpower Centres involved in CES projects can do a great deal to forward the equity objective of the Division in a most practical way. The assurance that existing resources will be used first before turning to new employment-related expenditures is welcomed by the Committee.

The Committee recommends that the Division's contribution to the Community Employment Strategy be limited to direct placement, training and the Local Employment Assistance Program. Beyond that the Division should confine its role to the co-ordination of the social services provided by other agencies.