

Supply

they mean but it seems to me there must be greater correlation between the federal government and the provinces in terms of our manpower needs for the future.

On the other hand, the government has created a very high level of unemployment. Although I do not want to get partisan at this time, the whole system has been frustrated by the fiscal and monetary policies of the government which have created unemployment of unprecedented levels. In 1966, there was a scheme whereby the Department of Manpower and Immigration was to concern itself with labour shortages, with the need for national training, mobility programs and improvement of job placement services. However, owing to the high level of unemployment the staff of the department has been unable to handle the workload, and those who have been trying to seek some alleviation of problems that are very real to them have simply been frustrated.

I submit that the minister should seriously consider wedding manpower with unemployment insurance. Indeed, the whole field of labour should be as one. I cannot see how the department can be at all meaningful until that is the case. Having said that, I am also very much aware that unemployed people must register with manpower and with the Unemployment Insurance Commission in order to show there is some inclination on their part to take a job. I should like to ask what happens after they have done so. Is it the fact, as I believe it is, that they sign their name on the register and then that is all? It seems to me no effort is made to assist such persons in terms of finding them a job.

Having once registered, surely to goodness what the manpower officials must do in order to take them off the roll is to find them a job. I venture to say that the vast majority of unemployed Canadians want to work, and that having registered with a manpower office it is then up to that office, as the national employment agency, to find them a job. That, Mr. Chairman, is where they are failing in their task and it is why some people are unemployed for three or four months in the year. If manpower is doing such a great job, why is it so many people remain unemployed for so long a time?

As I say, I am surprised that the hon. member for Timiskaming should move such a motion because he seems to me to have missed the point of the vote, even though his initial suggestion regarding a blending of manpower and unemployment insurance is a good one. Let me once again put on the record vote 5a, which can be found in the schedule to Bill C-141:

5a DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MANPOWER PROGRAM

Development and utilization of manpower—operating expenditures—To extend the purposes of manpower and immigration vote 5, Appropriation Act No. 3, 1972 to authorize payments to a province in respect of any necessary administrative support and inspection services supplied by the province in connection with training provided to adult employees under section 6 of the Adult Occupational Training Act and to provide a further amount of \$11,689,861.

Now, what surprises me is that the New Democratic Party, whose members are always talking about standing up for the unemployed and giving them equality of opportunity to become part of the mainstream of our economy,

[Mr. Alexander.]

is attacking the type of policies that give people affected by technological change and technological advancement the opportunity of receiving on-the-job training, which is a very significant aspect of our manpower retraining program, or instruction at an institution.

Despite what the hon. member for Timiskaming says, his motion would have the effect of wiping out assistance given to the province of Quebec, a province where I understand there are 12 to 14 per cent of Canada's unemployed. The situation is even worse in Newfoundland. The situation is so bad there that members from that province raise the problem at every opportunity they get. Ontario is in the same boat since it has masses of people who have been brought to this country and rightly so, to take advantage of what can be a great future for them. But they need this kind of training in order to compete.

As far as corporations are concerned, I know my hon. friends would call them corporate welfare bums. But at the same time, have they ever considered that industry must be put in a position where it is competitive, which means that individuals who work in that industry must keep abreast with technological advances? The New Democratic Party, the champion of the worker, the champion of the disillusioned, now says to them, "Thou shalt not be educated". I take a dim view of that kind of approach, although in some respects I have every sympathy for the hon. member's motion.

• (1600)

Mr. Nielsen: Would you ask the minister to confirm that the money for on-the-job training is in that vote?

Mr. Alexander: I believe he has confirmed that. I think there are something like \$10 million involved. How could anyone possibly take a stand to reduce that amount to \$1?

I am very pleased to hear that the minister is going to meet with the provinces on this whole system in respect of job training. I hope that manpower programs will be looked into and reassessed in terms of needs in various regions and cities, because while I think on-the-job training programs are good there is something wrong with a system under which less than half of those who are graduated are able to acquire the jobs for which they were trained. In view of that, we must be very careful about these job training programs in times of high unemployment. We must reassess our priorities in terms of training because there is no point in having highly trained people who cannot find employment and just add to the unemployment rolls.

With all due respect to the minister, who I know always looks kindly upon advice, when he gets together with the provinces he will have to determine where we are going in the next five years and what type of skills will be required. There is no sense training people if, when they are trained, they cannot get work. The minister will have to give the provinces some guarantee as to an accepted rate of full employment, whatever that may be. The Minister of Finance says it will probably be around 6 per cent. I think that is very encouraging. Whether or not he realized just what he said, I do not know, but I hope that when the budget comes out tonight it will be a panacea for all regions of this country. I am sure that is what the people