

Alleged Failure of Employment Policies

port because the level of allowances does not provide for the support of all their children.

The point is that the manpower retraining program would be excellent for a middle class family but very few of the people in this category need such training! For this reason, we need the following changes. Allowances must be brought up at least to the poverty level for any family, whatever its size, a member of which is taking part in this manpower retraining scheme.

The third failure of the manpower retraining program is the result of it being operated in what I can only describe as a context of administrative chaos. This point is well documented in the report of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario dated December 1, 1969. Let me quote from that report as follows:

The Canada manpower centre and the local educational facility operate, as had been said, in administrative vacuums, with little or no constructive consultation at either the policy formulation level, or in the day-to-day administrative routine. Apparently the federal department feels its prerogatives are better protected with things this way, making the erroneous assumption—we would presume—that education and retraining can be purchased in the same perfunctory way the housewife buys her weekly groceries.

That quotation does not come from a partisan source, but rather from a serious group of teachers and administrators. It represents an objective assessment of the manpower retraining program. Further on in the same report it is clearly demonstrated that there is absolutely no attempt made to co-ordinate the planning of programs of the federal manpower department, which is the ultimate executive and financial authority, with those of Ontario manpower authorities who provide the educational facilities. This is a serious economic matter. Quite apart from other shortcomings, there is no adequate long term forecast in respect of manpower needs. I emphasize the word "adequate" because there are of course long term forecasts.

● (12:30 p.m.)

The point made in this study is that there is a complete failure on the part of provincial and federal authorities to integrate their planning so that the real manpower needs of Canada are met. The inevitable result of course is that countless Canadians are being trained for jobs which do not exist, and that there are jobs presently available on the market for which there are not trained men.

Another failure of the manpower department is the colossal lack of leadership in

[Mr. Broadbent.]

respect of the retraining programs. It has failed to encourage new approaches or help those imaginative efforts which have existed outside governmental departments.

I should like to refer to the particular case of Frontier College. This college is a private institution dating back to 1899. By an act of Parliament of 1922, this college was given a charter and special recognition by the government. The purpose of Frontier College is to serve that category of people to which I referred a few minutes ago, namely those who live on the outskirts of the central core of our economy such as the Eskimos, the Indians, workers on the railways in outlying districts, loggers, and so on. This college has had a highly successful program for bringing education to these people and for bringing them community programs.

Frontier College is widely respected by every authority in the field throughout the country. I see that time does not permit me to give some detailed examples of the work done by this college. I only mention that they have done exceptional work in the Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and other parts of the country. When the administrators of this college requested this government for a mere \$50,000 to carry on this work, the manpower department refused their request and gave them a piddling \$5,000. Another \$5,000 I understand came from the Department of Labour. Here, we have an effective group of young people, in the main graduates, who give up a substantial income amounting to thousands of dollars, to work with the people whom they are teaching. They work as labourers during the day and teach at night. There are always considerable numbers of young people who apply for these positions. These people have been callously treated by this government. They have been performing a function which should be performed by the Department of Manpower in these areas, and yet they are not receiving the recognition and encouragement they should receive. Instead they have received indifference and discouragement.

I have tried to suggest that the manpower department has failed in four areas. It has failed to train those people who are most in need of training. It is not providing adequate allowances and there is administrative planning chaos. Finally, it lacks any kind of imaginative approach and leadership in respect of getting to the people in the outlying districts. Before leaving this area, I should like to mention something which should be,