

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

inferred from the fact that the figures have decreased in June, July and August that the new manpower and training program for workers is defective.

Now, I must point out, so as to complete the picture, that certain provinces have shown some reluctance with regard to the new manpower program. Not only was there opposition, but a degree of inaction was also deliberately provoked in some areas, probably to secure some negotiating power with the federal government. This was done not only locally, but the press was also used to show that much discontent existed, that the new manpower program, deemed unacceptable in some areas or in some provinces, would be a disaster for the country as a whole. This is not so, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that relations have now returned to normal.

On July 18, I held a meeting with the provincial ministers, and we agreed on practically all the most important details. In fact, the co-operation which was alluded to in this house yesterday, is an actual fact, and I am sure that it will continue to prevail.

It is obvious that, according to the new policy, Mr. Speaker, we no longer wish and no longer consent to take care at the federal level of tasks which fall under provincial jurisdiction. And I should like one day to see some logic in the policies or political theories advocated by the parties in this house during their conventions. There is nothing wrong in their talking about provincial jurisdiction or provincial autonomy, the two nations concept or the desire of Quebec to be in full control of matters under its jurisdiction, but I would rather they did not criticize the government when it adopts a policy which respects precisely those theories which are exploited more or less everywhere.

But I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that this new manpower program shall help the workers, and that more of them will profit by it.

The question of language training has been raised, Mr. Speaker, and we certainly do not intend to go systematically into academic or formal training. This field is under provincial jurisdiction, and if some people here want the government to enter this field, they should not only move to amend the constitution to put this under federal jurisdiction, but also have the gumption to do so openly, before the country. However, as long as the constitution remains unamended, we shall leave the educational field under provincial jurisdiction.

This, however, Mr. Speaker, does not mean that we are going to deny to the immigrants

[Mr. Marchand.]

the benefits of our laws as to the study of languages, especially French and English. Not only will these benefits not be denied them but we have moreover advised all our manpower offices to comply with any request that might be made to them, provided these requests conform to the aims of our manpower, that is, when the teaching of the language is necessary to enable the applicant to fill a job in Canada. In other terms, this means that all our policy is related to the employment market and to the workers' needs in finding employment; we want them to become able, from a professional or language viewpoint, to obtain remunerative employment in Canada. Therefore, immigrants who need one of the two languages to get a job can take advantage of our programs. For those who want to improve their knowledge of English or French because they live in a bilingual country with two official languages, that is the responsibility of the provinces, and I hope that they will fully assume this responsibility.

Therefore, there is no question of discrimination against immigrants.

Someone mentioned—I think it is the member for Timmins (Mr. Martin)—that some workers were excluded from the manpower training program. No class whatsoever of workers is excluded from our manpower training programs and that is true for miners as for others. However, it will be understood, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot agree automatically every time a worker requests retraining.

That program is designed to enable the workers who are unemployed to find employment and those who have an inferior job to improve their income and develop fully. That is the program's aim. Otherwise, tomorrow a million workers would say: Well, I am a carpenter but I would like to become a welder; or, I am a welder and I would like to become a maintenance man or a millwright. That would not make sense. Thus there must be a demand on the labour market and the individual must be in a position to benefit from our courses. There is no doubt that some workers will be rejected, namely a worker who has a steady job will not be accepted, except for serious reasons, for another course because otherwise it is easy to see what it would mean on the financial level.

In any case, therefore, I feel that this program is comprehensive and that the grievances aired in this house are unfounded, at least in that respect.

Yesterday, I heard members of the opposition express the most conflicting views. First of all, the hon. member for Carleton (Mr.