

Business of Supply

and they too assured me that they were stepping up more the publicity and were more active than last year. I was told that the Manpower office in that place was contacting private enterprises to secure summer employment for young people.

Another group of employees in our Manpower centers was visiting some areas and met the workers personally in order to hear about their ideas and their suggestions on manpower in the area or in the country at large. These officials set up a file for every individual in order to determine in which field they could give him a start.

Those are new methods used by the Department of Manpower to promote the use of manpower.

It has been mentioned this afternoon that the responsibility of the Manpower and Immigration Department is not to create jobs, but rather to see that the manpower is adapted to modern equipment and technology. And, it is exactly what is being done today, through a whole gamut of vocational training.

Mr. Speaker, in that field, the co-operation of private enterprise, of industry, as well as that of the members of Parliament is required. In their ridings, the members of Parliament must find ways to promote employment in industries and, if necessary, to make suggestions to the department.

We are trying to establish new methods, but it is necessary, in some areas in particular, that the member of parliament who is concerned with the welfare of his people, and especially that of the students, let the department know if there are any possibilities of creating new jobs that the officials may have overlooked.

The member of parliament may, on his own initiative, meet the responsible people in the Manpower centres and co-operate with them, in order to find the most efficient way of securing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott) suggested this afternoon—another opportunity for spending more money—to grant additional travelling allowances to persons taking vocational training, so that they may be able to go and visit their families during the Easter holidays.

Mr. Speaker, this is definitely in contradiction with the present regulations made two years ago. He said that if the school is closed during the period where the government is paying an allowance to someone eligible, the

latter will not get travelling expenses. However if, for some reason, the school must close during the period where allowances are being paid, a travelling indemnity will be paid. The minister will never be able at any time to take it upon himself to change the regulations in order to defray supplementary expenses.

In reply to the questions of the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Schreyer), I shall say that all his suggestions would only involve additional expenses for the department. I realize that for a certain category of people, this could enable the person entitled to an allowance to attend a longer course at the government's expenses. However, when the hon. member mentioned this afternoon that the 52-week period of training provided under the terms of the Manpower Act was in fact reduced to 44 weeks, I believe he was including in his calculation the two summer months during which courses are suspended.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that the hon. member for Selkirk was wrong to make such a statement.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, when we say that a person eligible to courses paid by the Department of Manpower is entitled to a 52-week course, it is really 52 weeks, and not 44 weeks of courses and 8 weeks of holiday, with an allowance. A person accepted for a given course receives a living allowance only while attending courses.

We were asked the same thing during the Christmas and New Year period. In my own riding, some people attending courses paid by our manpower office asked for the same allowance during that period, claiming that the courses were suspended. We must make it clear that the legislation authorizes allowances for 52 weeks of courses, and not for 44 weeks of courses and 8 of holiday.

The hon. member mentioned also that the Department of Immigration was not looking after the less favoured areas. I have to tell him that he surely does not try to find out what is the true situation.

In fact, I could quote some figures which show that the government is looking after its business and attending to those things even before hon. members bring them to its attention.

I could mention that in 1961-62, through its training programs, the government paid \$29 in Canadian money to every unemployed citizen of the Atlantic provinces; the average for