

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

per cent of the work force had grade 10 education or less; therefore, the basic training that developed under the former agreement was embarked upon.

The Vancouver Board of School Trustees, through the provincial government, offered to expand its basic training program and to organize an experimental centre designed especially to concentrate upon improving techniques and content for the classes. Space was available in a public building at nominal cost for this program, but it had to be abandoned because of the sharp reduction in manpower referrals. The Vancouver Board of School Trustees held that instruction in basic training should be available through the manpower division both on a full time and a part time basis.

The minister was good enough to write to me last June, when he said:

Under the occupational training for adults program both part time and full time instruction may be purchased, and my department intends to purchase part time or night school training in the Pacific region. The nature and extent of services of this kind which will be purchased have not yet been decided; however, discussions are currently under way with provincial officials on this and other matters.

That letter was written on June 27, but by the middle of August the Vancouver Board of School Trustees, which has been responsible for carrying out this upgrading and training program, complained to us that they still did not know what they would get in the number of referrals. There is not any consistent pattern that they know of which will allow them to plan for the services. They say:

Unless manpower department provides opportunity for effective basic training, it is denying responsibility for a major problem area in the increasingly important field of technical skill development.

In addition to a reduction in training opportunities, the irregular nature of the referral procedure has already resulted in discharge of some staff members and the inability to guarantee staff appointments for periods of more than four or five months. In today's market, good instructors are not interested in this type of appointment.

Efficient organization of training programs depends on the ability of any training group to develop and keep a competent staff of technical instructors.

● (8:50 p.m.)

They are worried because if they are to have a good staff and good basic programs they must know in advance how many people they are going to get. They contend it is not good enough in the first place to give financial assistance only to persons and that in order to have good programs financial

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assistance must also be given to basic programs. Otherwise, programs cannot be properly planned and permanent instructors cannot be hired. I think this is a very important matter indeed. They say that the new legislation, based on purchase of services by manpower, presumes availability of training spaces, training facilities, professional staff, and an administrative organization ready to serve the demands of manpower. They explain:

This is a false assumption; there needs to be a basic organization of services available to guarantee this.

Their first complaint is that the services should be available not only to persons but to programs.

The second matter about which they complain is that it is not good enough just to provide full-time manpower training with facilities and upkeep. They say that for many years in Vancouver there have been people working part-time and training part-time, and funds should be provided for part-time training in night schools and elsewhere which would afford people the opportunity of doing regular work during the daytime. It is not only the Vancouver school board that has said this. Around the middle of July, I received a letter from the Vancouver Board of Trade which reads in part as follows:

The magnitude of the part time programmes needed in an urban area such as Vancouver, makes it quite unrealistic to attempt to provide direct federal support to individuals in such programmes.

They go on to point out that what we need to do is to support programs in night schools. They write:

We hold the very strong opinion that the government of Canada should not only support people directly, as it does under the "Adult Occupational Training Act" but should provide support also for programmes as was the case under the "Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act".

We are talking about saving money and providing incentives. As is pointed out by the Vancouver Board of School Trustees, greater incentive would be provided if it were possible to train these people who are working part-time than simply to say "we will support only full-time trainees". I think that here they have raised an excellent point.

There is another point which I should like to make and which we all discussed at this particular meeting held in Vancouver. I believe it has been touched on earlier today by previous speakers. Recently under the