

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

some dairy producers will be excluded from that production next year, and under the rules of the Canadian Dairy Commission in the next few years, they will have to turn to other sectors, now, in order to be ready, they will necessarily have to take retraining.

Others wish to spend their time doing something more interesting than remaining idle. This applies especially to the young, for when one is young, one is full of energy; and when one is idle, one is exposed to doing things which are not advisable. So an interest must be taken in the young in order to give them the opportunity of doing something good instead of doing something evil. They wish to take courses to improve their education or to increase their knowledge in some field or other.

I receive letters from people who complain about not being able to take courses because they have not been accepted by the manpower centres in their area; and this, even when at times it would be possible for the schools to accommodate them.

Must the officials of the manpower centres apply some standard before accepting a candidate who wants to take a retraining course? Is there a maximum age? Some people who took courses in 1967-68 are refused in 1968-69. Why are they rejected?

Here is an example. Someone wrote to tell me that last year he registered at his local manpower centre for a retraining course as a heavy machinery operator. He was told that he needed a 9th grade education to register for that course. Since he had gone only to the 7th grade, he chose to take his 8th grade of schooling to go on to the 9th grade, and he finished with marks of 89 per cent.

Last fall, he went to the same office to register for his ninth grade, but he was turned down because, he was told, he was over 35 years old and only those under 35 were accepted for the ninth grade this year. But as he wanted to complete his ninth grade this year at all costs, he went to the regional school board, of his area, and he was accepted. He is now taking subjects for his ninth grade since November 18, but without financial assistance.

Others are rejected because there is not enough room in the schools. Is that the true reason? Farmers would like to follow refresher courses in agriculture but they are turned down.

It is urgent, Mr. Speaker, that the people interested in the training courses should know as soon as possible where they stand, so

that they do not run the risk of losing their school year.

We speak rightly of the establishment of a just society. I suggest it should not remain at the project stage. We should not lose a minute in order to make it a reality. Many persons are denied, for a thousand and one reasons, the benefits of training courses. Is that the way to prepare them to bring their contribution to the achievement of a just society which will finally enable everyone to enjoy a decent living?

Society is troubled with the very serious problem of social welfare allowances paid to valid persons that could contribute, through their work, to the exploitation of our country's resources for their benefit as well as that of the whole community, thus giving back confidence in work efficiency.

I therefore ask the responsible minister to have amended the regulations on retraining courses, if it is so indicated, so that a larger number of people can take advantage of them before the year is too far advanced.

Finally, if the problem is financial, it is time for the government to take the bull by the horns and make financially possible what can be achieved humanly and physically.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to reply to the honourable member.

First of all I wish to thank him for the interest he shows in our manpower development programs. That much interest in those programs surely indicate that they are good. It is obvious that any new institution takes a few months, and often a few years, before attaining its maturity.

However, I note with interest that the people in his riding are interested in the progressive policy our government has put forward, which will certainly lead us towards a just society more rapidly than any Crétitiste government could.

[English]

HOUSING—OSHAWA—AVAILABILITY OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, it is a general duty of a member of parliament, I believe, to try on the one hand, to speak out on problems that generally are important to the nation as a whole, and on the other, to speak out on issues which have a more direct bearing with regard to his own constituency. Tonight I should like to