

Manpower and Immigration Council

great wisdom and from a great distance whether or not these recommendations are appropriate to small communities wherever they exist across the land.

Finally, I should like to echo the sentiments of the hon. member for Carleton that in all of this program the government will in fact allow for a great deal more community development by people who are dedicated and who will give the time and energy necessary to make these programs really effective. The dangers of bureaucracy are such—perhaps this need not be repeated—that there is a growing tendency to take away from people in a host of different ways a sense of responsibility and participation. It is important and fundamental in some areas related to vocational and occupational retraining and to matters that are closely related to livelihood and education that people be allowed the largest measure possible of self determination. I have not been happy with instances of bureaucratic interference which to me have seemed unwarranted and unnecessary in giving people a chance to control and to improve their own destiny. The minister will have a further opportunity when he speaks on second reading of the bill to clarify how many of the fears that have grown out of real situations may be allayed through the setting up of these advisory councils.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt after listening to the discussion this afternoon on this resolution that the manpower department is facing serious difficulties in the implementation of its program. I do not intend at this stage of the discussion and at this late hour in the afternoon to enlarge upon the points that have already been made. We can draw the conclusion from the remarks that have already been made in the house that one of the reasons for the difficulty facing the manpower department arises from its failure to consult adequately first of all at the local community level and, second, to ensure the means for intergovernmental consultation, particularly between the federal and the provincial governments.

It would appear to me from the resolution we are discussing this afternoon that this is an attempt on the part of the minister and the government to close the gap which has become painfully obvious in recent months and has been pointed out by several speakers earlier in the debate this afternoon. At the time that the amendments were made last April I remember taking part in the discussion and pointing out to the minister that it

[Mr. MacDonald (Prince).]

was going to be extremely difficult for the provinces in particular to cope with the terms of the new legislation in time to meet the demands of enrolment for the new sessions at the vocational schools. I was aware that in the province of Manitoba, where they had very ambitious retraining programs under way and new schools were recently opened, there was a complete lack of communication between their officials and the officials at Ottawa over what exactly would be possible under the terms of the new legislation. In practice this has quite definitely proven to be the case.

● (5:50 p.m.)

I am not going to read from editorials, letters to the editor, or any newspaper comments on the subject because this fact was brought home to me quite forcibly as a result of personal exposure to the problem during the past few weeks in my home city of Brandon. We have there a new and elaborate vocational training school which completed its first full year's operation very successfully last year. I know from personal contact with my constituents and also from visits to the school that they are not going to be able to carry out this year the same kind of program that was carried out last year. For one thing their enrolment is going to be down. I have been besieged and beset by potential enrollees who anticipated enrolling on the same basis as last year and arrived at the school to take the program only to discover that the terms of reference, the regulations, the rules of the game, had been changed half way through. If there had been adequate consultation in connection with the new legislation I am sure that many misunderstandings would have been avoided.

Looking at the resolution it seems to me that this legislation is not going to bridge the gap that has occurred with reference to intergovernmental consultation. I know there is internal machinery to which it is possible to resort other than advisory councils of this nature, but I would point out to the minister that the expressions of dissatisfaction and unhappiness that have already arisen early in the new educational retraining year will increase in intensity unless very urgent attempts are made to resolve the difficulty of lack of communication between the federal and provincial authorities.

Most of this lack of communication arises as a result of the elimination of the Part V program under which it was possible even for the school authorities to deal directly