

*Proposed Adult Education Council*

their programs to ensure co-ordination and complete coverage in this sector of adult education.

4. The institutions through which adult education takes place need to be strengthened and co-ordinated, both nationally and regionally; residential centres, for example, need to be developed and industry must recognize that such centres will be effective only if it was prepared to support them.

I therefore suggest that the first purpose of the council would be to gather information, due to the vast number of activities in each community. Hon. members are perhaps more keenly aware of this than are others because we receive invitations from many of these organizations. One sometimes wonders how we can possibly attend to the needs of these various agencies; and yet, we really do not know the full or total effect of these agencies. Really we do not know what areas are being covered and what gaps there still are, as a result. Of course, the association for adult education has done its best to gather this information but I think this matter needs a national focus in the same way that the Canadian amateur hockey association and various amateur sports associations have tried in the past to keep in touch with all the activities in the various sports fields. I think all of us in this house agree that there was a need for a national focus in this particular area. I think adult education is an area which needs this kind of treatment as well.

In a review of adult education as far back as 1950—there is a review being prepared for 1960 but unfortunately it is not available as yet—is given a list of 126 different agencies. I therefore put it to this house that before there can be any promotion of adult education or co-ordination of it we must find out exactly what these agencies are doing, what they regard as their purpose, and what they feel are the boundaries of their activities.

I have already mentioned various departments of the federal government. When we look at the organization of adult education at the provincial level we find nothing but a patchwork quilt. For example, in Saskatchewan, we find an association for adult education which just became a reality in 1960. However, there is no such association in Alberta. In Nova Scotia adult education is largely dealt with by or is a part of the department of health and recreation. It is spread over various departments of the provincial government in Quebec. In Ontario it is largely under the department of education in these community programs. In Manitoba, to my knowledge, it seems largely to have been the responsibility of the University of Manitoba and the department of agriculture in that province. I therefore suggest to hon.

members that this is an unfortunate situation. I think that no one would wish to see any lessening of initiative at the local level, or bureaucratization at the federal level. However, I think there is a need for direction. I think there is a need for some sense of purpose and co-ordination. I think this ad hoc organization is simply not sufficient for something as important as I believe this matter to be.

Then, of course, there are in existence other agencies. There are the local boards of education which are carrying on night school classes in most centres. University extension work is being carried on. We all know of the tremendous work that has been done by St. Xavier University. We all know of the correspondence courses that Queen's University carries on and also of the extension work of the University of Toronto, McMaster University and Western University. We also know of what has been done for adult education in the field of agriculture by the University of Saskatchewan and the Ontario Agricultural College. Of course, with regard to the other types of agencies, we know of the work done by the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.H.A. We also know of the work that is done by private organizations such as labour unions, chambers of commerce and home and school associations as well as by private industry. In many cases there is a tremendous amount of overlapping within a community. I refer to overlapping on the provincial and national scale. That is why I feel as I do that this is a problem of major proportions in this nation.

We have a great deal of dispersion of activity, energy and resources. We cannot afford this kind of dispersion in a country which has the limited resources we have for dealing with such a subject. This situation was very clear back in 1947 when the province of Manitoba decided to appoint a royal commission. I shied away from suggesting a royal commission in this resolution as I feel that possibly we are making a turn towards the use of councils rather than commissions. However, in the order in council establishing this royal commission we find the following statement which I think is applicable here on the national scene. The order in council goes on to say this:

And whereas representations have been made to the government of Manitoba that each of the aforesaid agencies—

—which have just been listed and I have already mentioned them—

—and organizations carries on its work in that part of the field of adult education chosen by it, and that some of such agencies and organizations