

*Business of Supply*

contradiction in terms here. Secondly, he was critical in respect of the failure to create an advisory board according to the legislation which was introduced in 1967. Well, we certainly need advice. As the Minister has indicated, the consultations are now coming to a conclusion. Apart from these two points, however, there is nothing which has come from the benches across the way which has added to the knowledge, experience or the policies which exist at present and which are being carried out in this country.

It is interesting to note that after the speeches are made and the criticism is levelled, those who have made the speeches disappear from the house. This would not seem to indicate any interest on their part in knowing perhaps what the position might be of the government responsible for the present state of affairs. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) took an entirely different position. I wonder how realistic he is about the present shortage of employment opportunities in suggesting a shift in governmental orientation. Our Minister has already indicated that this shift is in existence. If he wants an acceleration whereby the government would intervene, carry out and direct more of the activities of private enterprise, then apparently so far the Canadian people have not indicated they share the same opinion and his views are not realistic in terms of providing a solution during the life of this parliament.

The other solution the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby put forward was the creation of a young Canadian service program. While this perhaps is something which has a future, the question which might be asked is, how many students could and would take advantage of a scheme of this particular type? Here again, the member of the New Democratic Party completes his statement about Manpower policies without making any mention of whether within Manpower policies there is a need for a program relating not only to students but also to the many other segments of the Canadian population which are immediately in very acute need of assistance because of increasing automation in our society.

The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir) developed certain generalities. He has also disappeared immediately afterwards. He produced a certain number of well-known clichés on the subject. He spoke about the lack of co-ordination between departments which is something that is as old as the existence of any government. He spoke

about unemployment statistics which we all know. He spoke about regional disparities which are also quite familiar to us and about housing on which there has been a comprehensive debates for the past ten days. But where are the alternatives, where are the proposals which would reflect the half hour of concern and criticism of the policies of the government as expressed by the Leader of the Opposition? It would seem that the opposition has no alternatives to propose. It would seem that the opposition is in a position to describe problems but is not in a position to improve upon existing policies. This seems to me to be a state of bankruptcy of ideas.

• (5:40 p.m.)

If we look at the present and see what we have, I submit that we are a most fortunate country to have a manpower department. Not many countries of the western world have such a department. We are fortunate that we do have a policy and specific plans and programs such as the mobility program which is endeavouring to bring Canadians to jobs. We are fortunate in that we have programs such as O.T.A. which is endeavouring to keep people up to date with the changing industrial environment and enable people to develop necessary skills.

This is what we have at present. In my opinion, it reflects a great deal of foresight on the part of those who in past years took the initiative and produced the legislation we have on the statute books. This was not the result of the efforts of hon. members opposite. While we find comfort in the fact that we have worth while programs for the Canadian people in this respect, let us look to the future and see what can be expected then. At least those of us on this side of the house look to the future to see whether we can further improve the programs we have, whether we can perhaps one day arrive at a time when Canadians will not only be brought to jobs but when jobs will be brought to Canadians whether they are living near the sea coast or in the mountains of this country. This would be a highly desirable ultimate goal to achieve one day in order to maintain an even spread of the Canadian population from coast to coast. While it is not possible today, we all hope it will be possible in a few years.

We look forward to several things which will improve our ever-changing industrial requirements. We look forward, for instance, to the development of manpower resources which one day, perhaps before the turn of the