

Manpower and Immigration Council

contingency in order to improve their production techniques.

Then, the burden of manpower development, which we must foresee, would not fall upon the Canadian taxpayer alone, but also on the big financiers, the capitalists who have also some responsibilities in the field of technological change.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the comments I wished to make at this stage of the resolution. When the bill comes before us, we shall have a better understanding of what the government expects from this Canadian manpower and immigration council. I believe also, as I said before, that immigration is closely related to the manpower problem and that, therefore, the yearly influx of immigrants should be geared to our manpower needs.

I know that some people claim it is more economical to import skilled workers than to train them in Canada. Personally, I do not share this view. I think we must develop educational facilities in our own country so that we may find among our own countrymen the specialists needed by our industries to develop your country and to provide all consumers with the production and the finished products that we need.

Therefore, I think that we must be careful. The flow of immigration should be put under control when especially nowadays our unemployment rate is still too high. It should even be restricted to the fields where manpower is really needed where we cannot train rapidly enough skilled workers required by our industries.

When the bill is before us, we will be in a better position to discuss more clearly the aims of the government.

[*English*]

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, I will not speak at great length this afternoon on this resolution. The proposed manpower and immigration council may be most worth while and could operate on several levels. This is especially true of the advisory boards and the regional and local manpower committees.

In looking at this measure one suspects the possibility of another vast proliferation of civil servants. I hope that the functions performed by what I hope will be a limited number of such people will be worth while.

I expect that other members who have dealt with immigration problems have found, as I have, that they are interminable. Situations do not change. I hope that the recently

[*Mr. Laprise.*]

announced regulations and the points system will improve that part of the immigration procedure. I hope that the council will have time and authority to look into immigration questions on a fairly broad basis. I think we are adopting a somewhat selfish policy when we take the cream from other countries in the world in the form of the best people they have to offer. We carry on a somewhat sanctimonious external aid program to countries that we are busily engaged in robbing of the very people they most need. What we imagine we are generously doing with the one hand, we undo with the other.

Perhaps the council might determine why in certain occupational areas we are so terribly short of Canadians to do certain jobs. As an example I mention teaching. In the province from which I come we obtain half the necessary teachers each year from outside the province, many of them coming from outside the country completely. At this time of year when school boards publish their acquisitions of new staff, one reads with amazement that people have come from Scotland, England, Ireland, Australia, the Philippines, India, Pakistan—indeed, from all over the world. People such as these who are coming to British Columbia and other parts of Canada I am sure are desperately needed in their own countries.

We obtain many of our skilled people from the British Isles, mainly because there is an inflow into the British Isles from the West Indies, Pakistan and India of others with similar qualifications. The outflow from Britain comes here. That has continued for some time and I do not know whether it is wisest or best for Canada or for the other countries that are losing their educated people to allow it to continue. The council might look at that aspect.

I hope that the local committees will have power to recommend on matters touching immigration for agricultural purposes. We must remember the needs of this important industry and be prepared to see people spend some years in agricultural work and then move to other occupations. That sort of policy would be wiser than a policy under which people are brought in almost as indentured labourers and sent home at the end of the season. Such a policy has never worked in any part of the world where it has been applied.

• (5:00 p.m.)

A local manpower committee would be able to assess the situation in the local area, and this applies particularly to agricultural