

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

ahead in terms of economic and employment needs in regions so that, although they do not perhaps exist at the moment, they can be met adequately and responsibly in the future. This is possible only if some preplanning and anticipatory work is done at this stage. This would mean that in a province like my own, the province of Manitoba, which aspires to supporting a substantial complex of light and medium manufacturing, we could look forward to a pool and well of personnel who would be available to perform certain jobs and staff plants and be able to supply the necessary muscle for industries and other productive enterprises when those enterprises presented themselves.

I think the over-all necessity in regions such as the one I am discussing, others similar to Manitoba, is for an enlightened view or attitude toward the future on the part of this council and all those concerned with manpower and immigration policies in the government of Canada. For it is a vicious circle, Mr. Speaker. When one region attempts to improve its status but lacks both the financial resources and the available manpower to do so, then the one lack feeds the other. In those circumstances a province finds itself in the position of being unable to attract industry because it has not got the manpower and at the same time unable to attract manpower because it has not got the industry. In such a situation, Mr. Speaker, what is necessary is a close and dedicated exercise in co-operation among the provinces, this new council and the advisory bodies which will be set up and which will function under that council, in order to provide for future expansion and to anticipate the future ambitions of regions such as those to which I have referred. I hope that the minister incorporates the same philosophy in the work of the council and of his department.

● (4:40 p.m.)

There are one or two aspects of the conflict with private industry and business to which I should like to refer at this point. I share the anxiety of the hon. member for Halifax who spoke of the proliferation of bureaucracy which is exemplified in the establishment of agencies such as this. I think the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacDonald) put the case well yesterday with his references to the sovereignty, if you like, of the individual, individual responsibility and the desire of most men and women to care and provide for themselves, and the general attitude prevailing in the country at the present time in relation to big government paternalism. I

think there is a tendency in the establishment of agencies such as this toward a climate of paternalism that is more negative than positive in its effects on Canadian enterprise. I would therefore call on the minister to take pains, through his department and through this agency, to co-operate in so far as it is possible and to the greatest degree possible with the private employment services which operate in this area.

In my own city there is located the head office of one of the main private employment agencies of North America and perhaps of the world. Two or three other private employment services also have offices there. I am therefore familiar to some degree with the anxiety which these private companies have felt since the new Department of Manpower and Immigration was organized several months ago. I raise this question. To what degree will the activities of such private agencies be inhibited or to what degree will their freedom be encroached upon by this extension of governmental manpower responsibility and manpower authority?

The private employment agencies, as I am sure the minister would agree, have performed a considerable service in supplying necessary manpower, womanpower and muscle for businesses and industries across this country. One is moved to ask now what the role of these private agencies will be. What will be their future role in an economy which to a greater extent with each passing year, it seems, becomes more and more a guided and managed economy, an economy in which the government has an increasingly large and authoritarian influence and in which the private enterpriser, the private entrepreneur, has, unfortunately, a correspondingly diminishing influence. I wonder whether an attempt has been made on the part of the officers working under the minister to work out with these private agencies a system whereby the private agencies may contribute to the role that the minister envisions his department may perform to improve the manpower situation of the country.

I hope my remarks in this area do not give me the appearance of having been suckled on a creed outworn. In the view of many, particularly in this party, this creed is not yet outworn. A creed that speaks out for an asks for the encouragement of private enterprise at this stage in the development of the Canadian economy is a timely one.

We hope, as the hon. member for Prince suggested yesterday, that this new program is not one of regimentation, authoritarianism