

*Supply—Manpower and Immigration*

last year. However, when these estimates were drawn up virtually a year ago we could not be sure how quickly training would develop under the new programs and therefore budgeted cautiously. As the Minister of Finance announced in his budget speech some time ago, the pace of activity which has in fact proved possible will require a substantial supplementary estimate.

I do not apologize for this. The need for more training is universally recognized. Our studies have fully confirmed that training, if it is for the right jobs, yields economic benefits far greater than its costs. In the world in which we now live workers need training to keep up with technological change and our economy needs their new skills. Adult occupational training is vital to the growth and technological development of the Canadian economy from one end of the country to the other. At the same time, and precisely because training is so important, I am determined to see that the large sums involved are well spent, even though this means we shall be criticized because we cannot provide everything that some individuals want or that some agencies think we should make available.

I do not think, Mr. Chairman, it is necessary to convince the house of the importance of training as a means of improving productivity and living standards. We have to invest in our people. It is my concern to see that we do this on the increasing scale that is necessary, and at a pace at which we can ensure that the money is well spent.

Turning now to the matter of geographic mobility, the house will recall that a manpower mobility program was initiated late in December, 1965. From that date to the end of March, 1967, a total of 2,748 loans and grants were provided to workers and their families to help them move to communities where they could get jobs. That is not a large number. But it was an important program for the workers who did benefit; on the average their annual incomes were more than doubled. From the national viewpoint the increase in their output was, even in the first year, much greater than the amount the federal government paid to help them move.

Accordingly, as I announced in March, we began on April 1 a new program which eliminates loans and enables many more people to benefit from grants. Since then the rate of utilization of the program has increased to about five times what it was last year. In the first four months of this fiscal

year over 3,600 people received grants to move; of these, over 2,200 were relocation grants and the remainder exploratory.

I should say that except in special emergency cases like that of Bell Island the program is not being used to move large numbers of people away from particular areas. Most of the moves are within a province or region. That is to say, in most cases we are able to find new jobs without having to move people too far from home. I should like to reaffirm too that the mobility program is being implemented in line with the economic plans and programs of the provinces and of other federal government agencies.

I would like to turn now, Mr. Chairman, to the other major responsibility of my department—immigration. In October, 1966, I tabled in this house a white paper on Canadian immigration policy. As you know, this white paper has been given intensive study by a special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons, and I would like to take this opportunity again to express my thanks and appreciation to members of the committee for their careful consideration of immigration principles and policies. Their frank criticisms, as well as their suggestions, were of immense help in framing the new regulations which took effect on October 1.

I intend to submit a new immigration act to this house as soon as the timetable allows. I will not now take the time of the house to discuss in detail the new regulations or the policy details which I discussed with the special committee last April 18. The regulations are, I believe, a great step forward. They are completely non-discriminatory. They give increased recognition to family relationships. At the same time they ensure that the flow of immigration is better attuned to our economic needs. They give us for the first time a consistent basis for considering immigration applications from people already here as visitors.

Perhaps most important of all, the new regulations mean that for the first time the rules governing the selection of immigrants are spelled out in detail for all to see. This means that the assessment system will enable immigration officers to apply the same standards in the same way to all potential immigrants. In combination with the new appeal board, which has now completed its preparations and will be ready officially to start work in a few weeks, maybe within a week or ten days, it should provide an objectivity and a humanity which it has not in the past been