

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

teachers. When he is not refused there, he is refused by the manpower office.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the minister will have to see to it that things are cleared up, so that federal and provincial officials may work along the same lines. They must interpret the same act the same way, and I want, tonight, to call especially the attention of the minister to the matter about which I talked to him this afternoon concerning agricultural courses for the farmers.

As I said earlier, these past years in our region we have had amateur farming. We have some solid farmers who simply want to learn more about running a farm or attend some other courses, mostly to learn more about farm management and, in my opinion, these courses should take precedence over all the others this winter, at least for the farmers in my riding. We expected to have at least three or four courses in the whole region, because the regional school in my riding concerns the whole county of Roberval. The regional school, Louis Hémon, is for the whole county. While we expected about 200 or 250 young farmers—not old ones, but young farmers around 30, 32 and 35 years of age—who are settled on good farms and who want to acquire new skills to enroll for courses, we have been told this afternoon that a maximum of 80 can be accepted. This reminds me of the selection which was practised for a long time and which still exists today in certain faculties at university level: fifty per cent of the candidates are automatically eliminated. Eighty only are admitted while it would be easy to accept 200 or 250 candidates. Eighty for the whole area, out of a population of 54,000. We shall have eighty farmers who will take these courses.

I think this is abnormal and absolutely insufficient. Just this morning, I received a letter from the president of the UCC which reads as follows:

I got information from the Roberval Manpower Center. Mr. Beaudet came to meet a group of farmers from St-Félicien, La Doré, Ste-Méthode to tell us that the government allowed only 80 farmers to take courses in the Louis Hémon regional school area, that is, for St-Félicien—

—the most important agricultural parish—

—St-Félicien only, 7 to 8 farmers would be entitled to these courses. It is ridiculous because every day, on the radio, farmers are invited to register when it is well known that they are not accepted.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Therefore, I think it is very bad publicity for this new bill which will be passed. I myself heard on television this advertisement inviting farmers to register for those courses.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

Imagine all these young farmers who want to do well, who wish to improve, being told: the government so decided. I myself got in touch this afternoon with the minister who told me: There is a board and there is an agreement. He admits that it is a federal-provincial agreement.

Mr. Speaker, after getting the reply "That has to do with the federal-provincial agreement", you get the impression that everything has been said, but in fact nothing has been said. I think they will never agree about that federal-provincial agreement. In fact, I notice that the representative of the provincial government seems to compete a little with the representative of the federal government. Each one pulls his own way and all that time our people who are waiting for the retraining courses will wait all winter without getting anywhere.

The amendment moved by the Conservatives reads as follows:

That Bill C-150 be not now read a third time but be re-committed to the committee of the whole house for the purpose of adding a clause which would require the proposed council to report to parliament annually.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that it is an unreasonable request. The filing of a report once a year is required from all those boards. I think that it is normal and I am even surprised that it does not appear in the bill. It is probably an oversight. Normally a board must at least submit a complete report once a year. It may perhaps present short reports scattered here and there as mentioned in the bill, to advise the minister and his officials of the various advisory boards. There will be at least 50 of those boards, namely an advisory board on adult occupational training, an advisory board on the adjustment of immigrants, an advisory board on the co-ordination of rehabilitation services for disabled persons and an advisory board on manpower and immigration research.

With all those boards and councils, the minister will need a good head; otherwise he will be quite mixed up with all the small reports which will reach him, and everything will be done in a haphazard fashion and, as usual, it will be the worker who will have to wait for service somewhat adapted to his needs. As I have already said in this house, it will be another of those pieces of legislation which will probably be used as a smoke screen to brag about achievements, when, in fact little or nothing will have been done.