

First of all, those who need the training most are either ineligible or not permitted to take the training for a long enough period of time.

For example, all those men and women with less than grade eight education who, by the way, constitute some 43 per cent of our labour force—a shocking statistic and the worst record of any advanced industrial nation in the world—find themselves in difficulty. This group of Canadians are crucially important if we feel we want to do something about improving conditions in our country.

Let us consider those with less than grade eight education in conjunction with the regulations in respect of this program. We immediately see the bind in which these unfortunate people find themselves. According to departmental regulations a man can take only 52 weeks of academic training plus 52 weeks of training in a skilled trade. However, and this is the catch, to take training in a skilled trade one must have a grade ten level of education. What does a man do if he starts with a grade seven, six, five or even a grade four level of education? It is impossible for such a man or woman to attain a grade ten level in 52 weeks. If the individual is lucky he may attain a grade nine level of education, but most do not get even that far.

What does happen to the few who begin our manpower retraining courses with that kind of low level of education? We find that at the end of the year we have unemployed people with a grade nine level of education instead of unemployed people with a grade six level of education. Is this any way to treat that part of our population which I suggested at the outset should be of prime concern to a democratic government? What is needed is a change in the regulations which would permit such men and women to go beyond the 52 weeks if an extended time period is required for them to attain the grade ten level. At that time the individuals would be able to take one of our trade courses.

The favourable statistics provided by the government about these courses are misleading. The fact is that only people with higher levels of education tend to take the courses because they know they can complete them. The others know that unless they have almost a grade ten level they do not have a chance to take a trade course. So, the trotting out of a lot of statistics regarding the ability to get jobs as a result of taking these courses is a profoundly misleading thing. We have to consider the thousands of Canadians with less than a grade eight education who do not take

#### *Alleged Failure of Employment Policies*

these courses because they sensibly realize they would reach a dead end. The time period of the courses must be extended to enable these people to be re-educated and eventually obtain better jobs.

One important category of people excluded from this training program is the young working group. This group is effectively excluded by the requirement that to receive training with allowances an applicant must have been a member of the labour force for three years. How could a young boy or girl aged 17 or 18, out of school and no longer a dependent, qualify for such training? Obviously such an individual could not qualify. This is one of the reasons I suggest this category of unemployed people between the ages of 16 and 19 is increasing and represents a vivid unemployment statistic. These people are out of jobs and are ineligible for our retraining program. This situation must be changed immediately.

This same regulation effectively excludes the majority of Eskimos, Indians and Métis who have never been members of the labour force. These native people represent a fair percentage of the population of this country. They are Canadians and should have the same rights as the people in my constituency. How can they have the same rights when the requirement is that one must have been a member of the labour force for three years before being eligible for financial assistance when taking these courses? Our native people, in short, are effectively excluded from this program.

Another failure of the manpower program is to be found in the level of allowances provided. In 1969 the average level of allowances paid to a recipient with three children was \$71 per week. This is below the poverty level in this country for a family, according to the Economic Council of Canada. We say to a man we will retrain him but he must keep in mind that he will have to live below the poverty level while he is being trained!

Furthermore, according to the Economic Council of Canada in its fifth report, the average family living at the poverty level has four children. The requirements of the manpower retraining scheme prohibit allowances for more than two dependants. This provision excludes the average family man who we might feel in statistical terms should be eligible. Those who are most in need of manpower training, poor large families, are effectively excluded from meaningful financial sup-