

Manpower and Immigration Council

minister every success in everything he undertakes to make this legislation succeed in the years ahead.

Mr. Groos: Mr. Chairman, I shall also be very brief. I would not like to let this very important bill, which I support wholeheartedly, go through without making a brief comment to the minister, apart from congratulating him on introducing it. As the last speaker said, we all realize that it may not be perfect, and that it is in the nature of an experiment.

I am particularly interested in the proposed advisory board on the co-ordination of rehabilitation services for disabled persons. Although the appointees to such a board will serve without remuneration except for compensation of their reasonable expenses, I hope the minister will make sure that among the appointees will be persons who themselves suffer some disablement. I believe that only a person who is disabled sees all the problems of the disabled in their true light, and I would not like the advisory board to be without the benefit of such advice.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, the word "adult" appears in clause 20 again, and another question arises out of the minister's answer to the question that I asked him on clause 12. When the retraining bill referred to was before the house, considerable anxiety was expressed about the age limitations connected with the word "adult." From consultation with high school councillors I have found them very concerned about occasions when they have been unable to place drop-out students in adult training courses because of the restrictions in the act. Has this problem been brought to the minister's attention with any frequency, and is it something the advisory board on adult occupational training would consider?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Chairman, this matter was debated at length in the house when the retraining act was before it. It was also discussed with the provinces, and I think we know now what is meant by the word "adult" in this bill. It means somebody who has left school for at least a year and who has been connected with the labour market during a period of three years. If we can help a school drop-out who has been out of school for a year, but who has not been attached to the labour force for three years, we will do so by paying only for the training course. He will not be given the other allowances. I think *Hansard* has recorded all the answers already

[Mr. Herridge.]

because this point has been thoroughly discussed, and it is one that has been accepted by the provinces.

Those who do not fall within the definition are the responsibility of the provinces. This does not mean that those young people are not taken care of now. They are taken care of, or are supposed to be taken care of by the provinces, but not by the federal government.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order, although in effect it is more a point of information. When the minister justifies the lack of definition of "adult" in this bill, by suggesting it has already been dealt with in a bill previously passed by the house, I for one find this insufficient. I am sure there are many bills on the statute books which have their own definitions of what may or may not be an adult. I do not see anything in this bill which says we should be guided in that respect by reference to the previous bill. I am not an expert on all the legislation on the statute books, and so would ask for the guidance of hon. members who are experts. I believe we are deluding ourselves by accepting a definition which is not implicit in the bill before us.

Mr. Marchand: As the hon. member knows, I am not a lawyer, and I do not intend to become one.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): We are together on that.

● (8:30 p.m.)

Mr. Marchand: I might be inclined to believe that the hon. member is probably right and that the utilization of the word "adult" here will not have the same consequences as the definition of adult in the training act, which provides for payment of allowances. However, I do not think the boards will be so concerned about the definition of adult, because they will give only advice to the minister. Therefore, personally, I am ready to concede that even if we receive a recommendation in respect of a group which is not covered under the strict definition in the retraining act I do not think it will matter much.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 21—*Regional and local manpower committees.*

Mr. Pugh: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering whether there is a conflict in this clause with clause 11 which gives the council certain very definite duties such as advising the minister,