

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

minister on all matters pertaining to the efficient use and development of manpower resources in Canada, including immigrants and their integration into Canadian life.

I consider myself fortunate in that I can bank—and the same goes for the officials of the department—on the wise counsels of those Canadians who act outside the department. It will facilitate the drawing up of an efficient program to develop an ever greater awareness in management of the ceaseless transformations in manpower needs across the country.

The bill authorizes me to refer to the council any subject whose study is imperative and the council will, of its own initiative, express its views on the important matters it will study. The bill provides for the setting up of four specialized advisory boards which will pass judgment on the work of the department in its main spheres of endeavour, namely vocational training of adults, integration of immigrants into Canadian life, the co-ordination of rehabilitation services and manpower and immigration research.

Moreover, from time to time additional advisory boards will be appointed to deal with special topics falling within the scope of my responsibilities.

*[English]*

The advisory boards will have a chairman and a maximum of 11 other members representative of the major interests concerned with these programs. The chairmen of the specialized advisory boards will also be members of the advisory council, in order to ensure an effective link between the work of the specialized boards and the council.

To ensure that advice on specialized matters is considered within the total framework of manpower and immigration policy, each of the advisory boards will report its conclusions to the council which will pass them to the minister with any comments it feels to be appropriate. The council may, on its initiative, refer matters to any of the advisory boards for their study and advice.

The regional committees now in existence are concerned with the functions of the Canada manpower division in each of the regions. Similarly, the local advisory committees are concerned with the work of the Canada manpower centres. The bill provides for the continuation of such regional and local committees for the purpose of advising and assisting the department in carrying out the functions of its manpower service.

The effectiveness of a public advisory organization depends on providing adequate professional and technical support for their work. My department is currently establishing an advisory council and liaison branch, and a major responsibility of this branch will be to service the advisory council and the specialized advisory boards. It will also ensure that all parts of the department assist in and are informed of the work of the council and boards.

This is a very simple measure, but I believe it will help to increase the sensitivity of government programs and administration to qualified outside opinion. To do that is of special importance to a department dealing as closely with people and their problems as it is the responsibility of the Department of Manpower and Immigration to do. Now I would like to comment on a few of the observations which were made yesterday by certain members of the house.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, it has been said—I believe by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) or for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—that the number of retrained workers, had decreased under the new manpower training program. And we were given figures.

To give any weight to these statistics, I think it would have been advisable to compare them with those of the preceding years. The hon. member for Greenwood and the member for Winnipeg North would undoubtedly have realized that during the summer period there is always a decrease in the number of workers who follow those courses. There are two reasons for this: first of all because it is summer, and then very often provinces do not offer all the courses they offer during the winter and, second, because of the employment situation, of job opportunities.

Everybody knows that, in Canada, especially in the past years, summer employment has almost reached a peak, especially in certain areas such as Toronto. Now, every time you have employment, that is every time the level of employment gets close to the maximum, fewer workers attend courses. I can assure the hon. members that under the new program, not only there will be—and I hope we shall all be here next winter—as many workers attending classes, but I am convinced their number will be much higher than last year.

● (3:50 p.m.)

Therefore, the explanation is quite simple, Mr. Speaker, and I do not feel it can be