

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

I think we all welcome the idea of closer co-ordination at the different levels of government. As a matter of fact, I have constantly felt that the big thing we have to achieve in the near future is very, very close co-operation and co-ordination among federal, provincial and local levels of government, and that until we can achieve a workable partnership we will not solve or even begin to solve any of the major problems facing this country today.

Therefore, if this new bill results in closer co-ordination among the different levels of government and the different regional authorities, I think it will be very helpful and very necessary. On the other hand, I believe we must make sure that this bill will not represent just a piling of machinery on machinery and will not be just another factor in making an administrative traffic jam that will lead to confusion and chaos rather than co-ordination.

When the going gets tough and it is impossible to achieve co-operation among different levels of government, we have frequently seen the federal government, in despair, form a task force, a committee, advisory board or something else. This is a very, very convenient way to attract attention away from the main difficulty, without achieving what should be achieved. It merely has the result of piling trouble upon trouble in the way of administrative machinery.

I know the minister does not want this to happen. I may put it badly, but I know very well the magnitude of the job the minister is undertaking. In Vancouver a great many organizations and individuals are very much concerned about certain facets of the manpower policy. I wish to deal with just one or two of them this evening. Ottawa is about 3,000 miles from Vancouver, but when you live in Vancouver and want something done in connection with a major problem, Ottawa seems at least 6,000 miles away. I hope that the new legislation and the way in which it is carried out, which is even more important, will resolve this difficulty. I hope we do not find that the Canada manpower and immigration council is composed of people recruited largely from central Canada, with a few university professors or other people removed from the difficulties which local bodies face when carrying out this work. In this connection I should like to see a very close co-ordination between the authorities at different levels.

This summer in Vancouver the members of parliament from the area had a great deal of discussion with the Vancouver Board of School Trustees and other organizations about the difficulties in connection with manpower. The Vancouver Board of School Trustees called a meeting of members of parliament for the Vancouver area, members of the provincial legislature and members of the city council. There were other people in attendance at the meeting, but these were the official people at the three levels of government. The Vancouver Board of School Trustees, as the educational body for Vancouver city, wanted to outline their difficulties in connection with manpower.

I wish to draw several of these difficulties to the attention of the committee because I consider it is the job of those of us who were at that meeting to draw them to the attention of the minister. As the minister is well aware, for many years the Vancouver Board of School Trustees has been working closely with the provincial government, with the financial assistance of the federal government, and has worked out a program of basic training for skill development, which is considered essential for vocational training and upgrading programs.

Admittedly, this program was quite selective and fell far short of meeting the full demands of the applicants. For this reason and others, the board welcomed the federal government's manpower program of support for the retraining of persons displaced by technical advances. The board commended the federal government for its proposals to increase the support of training and allowances provided in such cases. They made it clear that they welcomed this initiative on the part of the federal government.

However, we now find that in spite of the fact that this summer the board drew the difficulties to the attention of the federal government, the manpower training program has been reduced 50 per cent in the Vancouver area in terms of the numbers referred for training. Further, there is no assurance of any regular pattern whereby applicants will be referred for manpower training. The board just does not know what is going on in the Vancouver area and they are worried about it. They are worried because they can no longer plan properly; they do not have sufficient clear and definite information on which to plan. They established these basic training programs. They discovered from the 1961 census in the Vancouver area that 53