

*Business of Supply*

in the *Globe and Mail* by Fraser Robertson in which he said:

—more and more our exports are increased by the development of our human resources rather than of our natural resources. Increased technology has played a large part in this. Even more important than the know-how is knowing what to do, that faculty of entrepreneurial creativity which has had so much to do with U.S. business success.

Quite apart from the question of economic growth, God knows this country needs all the ability, talent and dedication we can summon from our young people. We have in this country a host of social and human problems that require the attention, the ability and the work of young men and women whose training is in the humanities and social sciences and whose dedication is to the solutions of those problems. We need scientists and engineers who, hopefully, are concerned about the environment in which these problems may best be solved.

I wonder seriously what role the Department of Manpower and Immigration and its minister play in the formulation of government policies and in the consideration of problems of the kind I have been discussing. For example, and I think it is a very serious example, would the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and his department be consulted and have an important part to play in the decision to cut back the grants that were intended to build medical schools and train the medical and paramedical personnel the country will need to catch up with the present shortage and to meet projected requirements over the next few years? Were the minister and his department consulted? This, surely, is the type of decision which, while the matter is under the direct jurisdiction of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, should be subject to important and perhaps decisive advice from the Department of Manpower if that department is doing the proper job it is being asked to do.

I wonder whether the Department of Manpower is at all concerned or was ever consulted about the cut-backs in scientific projects supported by the government of Canada. Was the Department of Manpower in a position to advise the government as to the probable loss of scientists because of the cancellation of the ING project or the Queen Elizabeth observatory? More generally, and I think this is more important in the long run, is the department in a position to assess the effects in terms of scientific manpower of the uncertainty and confusion surrounding the federal government's science policy generally? To me this is

the proper concept of a manpower department. The Department of Manpower ought to cut across every department of government and every policy of every department of government. Having made its own assessment of the manpower requirements of the country in the various fields, projected over a period of five, ten or more years, the department should have an opportunity to advise cabinet as to how every important policy of government or of any department is apt to affect our manpower resources and their potential. I regret to say that it appears that under this government the Department of Manpower is given a back seat. It appears that the minister is given an inferior status and that in the main he is accepting it.

What is of most concern is not that a problem exists. Rather, it is that there appears to be almost no awareness and almost no concern on the part of the government about our problems or the urgency of our problems which show every sign of growing more severe. What is most depressing about all this is that there is not a shred of evidence that any thinking about this problem is being done by the government. No thinking seems to be devoted to it; there is no planning and no real concern.

It is almost unbelievable that this government came to power last June with the support of so many young people in Canada. It is certainly astonishing that these urgent problems should have such a low priority with a government elected on the slogan of involvement and participation. What amazes me is that the hopes of our younger people and their genuine desire to do something meaningful in their country were cast aside so cynically by the government once it was safely back in power. Not only is the employment situation extremely difficult this spring, but nobody in the hierarchy of the just society seems to be interested any more. The government has not come up with any new programs to deal with this emergency. It has not even fully enacted or implemented the old programs.

On November 13, 1967, the parliament of Canada passed Bill C-150 entitled, "an act to establish a Canada Manpower and Immigration Council". That council was to consist of a chairman and not more than 15 members appointed by order in council. Among other things, the duties of that council were to advise the minister on all matters pertaining to the effective utilization and development of manpower resources in Canada. Under that legislation the minister was also to establish