

the point I wish to make. I also draw to the attention of the minister that building a pipeline as extensive as this will require expansion of the industry in Canada. It will also require expansion of training in Canada. This is the reason I raise the matter. I merely mentioned the one million tons of steel pipe required to emphasize the size of the project and the size of the labour force required in the steel industry, which is of special interest to hon. members. It would be unfortunate if we had to import the pipe because we did not have enough productive capacity or skilled labour to deal with this or similar projects. This is my point, and I leave it at that.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that I welcome some of the changes proposed in this bill to amend the Adult Occupational Training Act. The former minister of manpower who introduced this bill will remember the debate at that time, in which I participated. We took very strong exception to the provision the bill proposes to amend, namely, that a person had to be in the labour force for three years before qualifying for manpower training under the provisions of the act.

We pointed out that that provision would keep out of the manpower training program precisely the people who need the training most. I refer to relatively young people who have finished school but do not have the qualifications necessary to begin work. Although they do not have the training necessary, they are told they cannot receive the benefits of the program until they have been away from school and in the labour force for three years.

I do not intend to quote from *Hansard*, but I remember pointing out to the then minister that a person 18 or 19 years of age who had finished high school, was living at home and for whom it would be relatively simple and quite economical to provide training in our institutions was being told he had to wait for three years, by which time he would in all likelihood be married and meeting his living expenses while undergoing training would be a great hardship. I remember the arguments with which this point was met and the explanation as to why it should not be done. Therefore, we welcome the amendments proposed in this bill.

This is one of the few opportunities which we have in parliament to deal with the very real difficulties which we face in the whole field of employment and manpower training. To a large extent it is pointless and, indeed, cruel to be conducting such an elaborate and expensive manpower training program while at the same time accepting the fact, although the government does not admit it, that we shall continue to have large-scale unemployment in this country.

The minister is pointing out that we have only a few minutes left in this debate. I do not know why that is so. In any event, I hope the minister will take the opportunity, if not today then on a future occasion, to explain to the people of this country what earthly sense there is in spending several hundred million dollars on manpower training each year, when for the past two years we have had 6 per cent or more unemployment per month, on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Adult Occupational Training Act

As the leader of our party pointed out yesterday, projections made by the University of Toronto Institute for the Quantitative Analysis of Social and Economic Policy released a few days ago indicate that for the balance of 1972 and into 1973 we will be faced with the problem of having more than 6 per cent of the labour force unemployed. What sense is there in spending several hundred million dollars and keeping 100,000 or 200,000 people in training programs when there are over 600,000 people unemployed at the present time? I know there are political advantages to the government; it can say there are only 630,000 people unemployed today rather than having to admit that between 100,000 and 200,000 people in training programs will be added to the number of unemployed.

What jobs will these people be able to get when they have finished the training program? I wonder whether the minister and his department have conducted any surveys as to the number of people who have completed manpower training programs and have been unable to find jobs in the fields in which they were trained. Also, have any surveys been conducted to determine the number of people who have taken manpower training programs, not just once but two or three times? Attending manpower training courses becomes a way of life for some people rather than a method of getting better training in order to find a job. As long as we do not have a policy of full employment, manpower training to a large extent is a sham and a delusion. That is the first point to which we should address ourselves. Second, we need to ask ourselves—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. MacLean: Mr. Speaker, I presume that at this time the House leader will want to announce the business for Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I thought the hon. member was rising on the same point of order which I assume the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) is going to bring to the attention of the House. For the moment I will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, my suggestion may be out of order, but in the interest of progress and co-operation it might be a good idea to allow this bill to proceed to second reading now and then go to committee, so that we can get our teeth into it there if other hon. members have suggestions and observations to make on it.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak to the point of order. I would be very glad to waive the customary winding up speech by the minister, particularly since the hon. member who now has the floor represents a party that is supposed to be vitally concerned and is, I am sure, anxious to see this bill passed as quickly as possible; unless, of course, I am misrepresenting the view of the hon. member who just spoke.