

"This last objective is, in many ways, the most important one. It cannot be achieved in a one-week public information campaign. It requires the establishment of machinery for continuing co-operation and consultation between industry and education.

#### ROLE OF THE SCHOOLS

"I don't intend to imply that the main function of elementary, secondary and higher education is to merely train men and women for industry, or that industry should have a dominant role in running the schools. Educators are properly concerned about maintaining one of the basic strengths of our society -- academic freedom. However, education at all levels, especially industrial and technical training, should strive to relate the schools to the realities of life and our times.

"Industry is an important part of these realities. Fortunately, each group is becoming more aware of the problems of the other and the need for closer co-operation. On February 7, representatives of federal, provincial and local governments, education, industry, management and labour, and other groups met in Ottawa to plan for the Canadian programme. Over 60 delegates unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed the Week and its objectives and promised the full support of their organizations and affiliated groups. Since then provincial planning committees have been busy preparing programmes of observance for almost every community in Canada.

#### VIGOROUS EXPANSION

"As Minister of Labour, I am particularly pleased that the observance of Commonwealth Technical Training Week comes at a time when in Canada, we are embarking on a vigorous programme of expansion in this important field. It is no longer good enough to get only a small proportion of our young people through high school, mainly with the thought of university education in mind, and let the remainder find their life's vocation in the best way they can. We can no longer afford this waste of human resources. The pace of technological change is too rapid and competition for world markets is too intense to allow us to squander our most precious asset.

"The task now before us is, how we can best utilize the human resources of this country for the benefit of the individual and the nation as a whole. The observance of this Technical Training Week is an excellent way to focus attention on the ways by which we can best solve the problems involved. Accordingly, the Department of Labour has endeavoured to assist the provinces to develop a programme of observance at the local level by providing material to inform the public of the issues involved. Pamphlets and posters addressed to students and parents have been shipped to provincial departments of education for distribution through the school. In co-operation with the National Film Board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television film clips and radio spot-announcements have been

prepared and will be broadcast during the Week. A reference manual, containing indexed articles related to education, training and employment, has been distributed for the use of speakers and panelists and as a general reference for teachers and others interested in education and training with respect to employment. A film, entitled 'You Can Go a Long Way' sponsored by the Sun Life Assurance Company and prepared in conjunction with my department and the National Film Board has been distributed to the provinces for premières in major centres in Canada during the Week.

"The regional and local offices of the National Employment Service have been playing an important part in preparation for the Week. The NES booklet 'Are You Thinking of Leaving School' has been widely distributed in an effort to increase the educational level of the work force.

#### SHORTAGE OF SKILLED APPLICANTS

"Over 70 per cent of male job-applicants during last winter had a Grade-8 education or less. About 70 per cent of the jobs available in Canada are of a professional, semi-professional, technical or skilled nature -- only 30 per cent of employment consists of semi-skilled or unskilled occupations. The problem will increase as the proportion of unskilled jobs decreases unless young people can be persuaded to obtain more education and training. What was an adequate education yesterday is becoming less and less adequate every day. Employers are demanding higher educational standards and marketable skills from job applicants. This is being done not to make things more difficult but because industry thinks of a young person in terms of his potential for development and advancement. Employers today are hiring for tomorrow. They want young workers who have the educational qualification that will permit them to adapt to the increasing complexity of modern industry and business and enable them to profit from further training and experience. Good employees are an important asset and employers want the best they can get.

"For these reasons the 'drop-out' rate in our schools is a serious problem. The magnitude of the problem is brought into sharp focus by a recent study of the probable education achievement of approximately 400,000 youngsters who enrolled in Grade 2 in 1957-58. About one-third will leave school before reaching high school, some with Grade 8, others with less. Between the first year of high school and junior matriculation, another third will leave school and almost one-quarter of the original number will leave between junior matriculation and first year university. Less than 10 per cent will go on to university.

#### A CRITICAL YEAR

"When will these students begin leaving school? In 1966. By then advanced technology and automation will have had an even greater impact on Canadian industry and business and competition for world markets will likely be stiffer.

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