

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

10. I quote in part from the report of his speech carried in Thursday's *Globe and Mail*:

The ... recent substantial increase in interest rates, which has occurred in spite of a flattening out of private investment and a large increase in the money supply.

This turn of events is unusual, since it seems to be a departure from what has happened in the past. How will this affect our problems in respect of manpower and immigration? The minister of natural resources of Saskatchewan last week told the Saskatchewan wheat pool that Canadian capital is moving from this country to help to develop other countries which have fewer resources than we have. Again I ask, how will this factor affect the minister's ability to deal with the proper use of Canadian manpower resources? Because of the anticipated adverse effects some industries may experience as a result of the implementation of the Kennedy round tariff decisions, what has the minister in mind? Then there is the slowdown in the construction industry.

Another question I wish to ask is with respect to manpower and unemployment insurance. Those two functions of the department which were carried on under one head, so to speak, have now been separated. Has that separation created additional problems? On this point I understand that the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) is to elaborate later in this debate.

What is the government doing to help to create new jobs? What can the department of manpower do to enable farmers, who face a real problem in finding help in times of mounting unemployment, to obtain help on their farms? These are some of the questions that the minister ought to answer. The matters they raise touch on policies that the minister, his department and the government must develop to overcome the problems our country faces. As the minister did not answer certain questions when his estimates were before the house, I hope he will answer some of those which have been put to him during this debate.

I wish to talk about the amendment I shall present later which will embody a requirement for the new manpower and immigration council to report to parliament. The minister's argument on this suggestion is found on page 2524 of *Hansard*. One point he made was that if the council were required to report to parliament, labour and management would attempt to take special stands.

[Mr. McCleave.]

Sir, economists and men from all walks of life make up the Economic Council of Canada. They will never agree unanimously on any proposal. But when that council makes a most thorough report in its annual review we may take it that it represents a consensus of opinion within the council. That report ought to be heeded. If the members of the economic council can reach agreement on certain proposals, surely it is not asking too much for representatives of labour and management to reach agreement with respect to certain matters that affect them.

The minister's second argument is also found on page 2524 of *Hansard*. His contention was that the sort of amendment I propose ought not to be accepted. He said, in effect, that the chairman of the council might try to embarrass the government. This, I submit, is a strange argument to come from the mouth of one of Her Majesty's ministers. I hope that the minister or any subsequent minister in his position will appoint the best man for the job. I hope that he will not appoint some Charlie McCarthy who will echo any partisan bias uttered by the minister's party. The man who is appointed to the job should do a job, in the interest of all Canada; he ought not to work for the minister or the minister's party. As we know, political parties come and go.

**Mr. Knowles:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. McCleave:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre says, "Hear, hear." I do not wish to become partisan. My only point is that I do not think the minister's argument holds water. He ought to look for the best man in the field and not for one who, when the government changes, will embarrass the new administration.

The minister also said that he could report to the house on the work of the manpower and immigration council when his estimates are being considered. Possibly he could report and possibly he could answer questions. Nevertheless, under the guillotine system with which we unfortunately shrouded this chamber it turned out that the minister could not answer questions when his estimates were considered since the time for discussion expired before the list of speakers was exhausted.

I am trying to be as non-partisan as possible and I hope the minister will not mind my dealing with his argument. In the past, when dealing with these matters, both sides have been at fault. The point I am trying to make is that the questions involved here have to do