

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

cut down government expenditure; this is not the way in which to curtail government bureaucracy. Let me put my thoughts on record in this regard.

There are 48 appointments to be made which will put these people on the government payroll. This bill is too broad in its scope and the minister is being given powers which I believe to be too wide. Surely the minister has sufficient staff at the present time to advise him on all matters affecting the utilization and development of manpower resources in Canada, including immigrants to Canada and their adjustment to Canadian life, without adding to the number of people on the government payroll. We already have too many officers, if I may use that term, and not enough crew. We already have too many people cutting bait, as we would say in Queens or Lunenburg Counties, and not enough out fishing. I believe that upgrading of our manpower and the retraining of individuals in other skills in order to take advantage of technological changes in our country is necessary, but I caution the minister that overexpanding his department unnecessarily, which could increase the load upon the taxpayers, might create more problems than this measure is designed to solve.

Private enterprise is obviously concerned about the growth of government boards in recent years. There is obviously an overlapping of responsibility between government and industry, and it might well be that the government could utilize the facilities established by private enterprise before expanding into this field of greater control and direction of our economy.

**Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo South):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that at this time we have reached a watershed in the debate on manpower. I felt reasonably confident that the minister although he was not in a position to say to the house that all the problems involved in manpower and retraining have been solved, at least was keeping a reasonably open mind about them. We had expectations that he would examine the suggestions we were making and that he would come up with some answers. Certainly no one is better qualified to find those answers and to carry out the objective of a meaningful manpower policy in this country.

In asking myself what is happening at the present time and why a loss of confidence is taking place I can only believe that the government is floundering because of its inability to solve federal-provincial problems. Much of

[Mr. Crouse.]

what is going wrong with the manpower policy seems to be the direct result of the attitudes adopted in respect of federal-provincial relationships. The government seems to be trying to create a no-man's land between what is federal jurisdiction and what is provincial jurisdiction.

We can understand that there is a substantial problem in respect of the province of Quebec but we do not know how extensive that problem is. We do not know what the local approach is to such problems. We do know that in the other provinces of Canada this difficulty does not exist to the same degree. There does not seem to be a problem in respect of the other provinces working with the federal government toward a meaningful program.

● (5:30 p.m.)

The attempt to segregate in regard to retraining is disastrous and meaningless. To ask the provinces to assume some narrow definition of education as their responsibility, while the federal government assumes some narrow definition of retraining as its responsibility, simply cannot work. There are a number of reasons for this. We know that in some of the provinces of Canada the effect of retraining and upgrading, whether it involves academic re-education, skills or any other type of education, will contribute to the migration from those provinces to other provinces of this country. In any country this sort of thing takes place. Some provinces are developing at a slower rate than others. Changes are taking place, whether they be in people moving from agriculture to industry or from one industry to another. In effect, by asking some of the provinces of Canada to accept this narrow definition the government is asking them to pay for the export of their people to the advantage of the provinces that receive them later. It just is not an acceptable solution.

The minister is certainly well aware of the fact that when these new regulations in respect of manpower training came into effect the province of Ontario was decidedly unhappy with them. In his speech today the minister suggested there was resistance to the program on the part of the provinces, that they were assuming a bargaining position. But the bargaining position between the federal government and the provincial governments is one that is hurting the very people who need this assistance. The inability of the federal government to come to grips with this problem and solve it will frustrate what is otherwise an opportunity for the development of a first class program.