

Supply—Manpower and Immigration

ashamed that a government which has neglected the rural economy should close the doors of parliament.

Unless we are to consider human resources as just so many statistics, what must be done in the eastern area is to restructure the economy completely. The eastern Canadian farmer, the farm worker and the rural and semi-urban worker must be given an opportunity to avail themselves of the kind of training programs that we have made available to the city workers, and that also includes the young people about whom I spoke earlier. I ask the minister, does he not feel that the continuing high rate of unemployment in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces is related to the uncertainty and uneasiness existing in these areas? Does the minister not feel that under the manpower provisions a positive program could be evolved which would produce a higher level of training skills throughout these provinces? Surely this is an area in which the federal government should act positively and give every possible aid to the provincial authorities and not add to their confusion by their uncertainty and their lack of interest. There is no question in my mind but that a continuing deterioration of the rural economy in eastern Canada is a serious national problem which should be recognized as such by the federal government and should be attacked by the establishment of national programs rather than by the present band-aid approach for which this government is noted.

The case of Dosco is a good example. When incidents of this kind arose when we were in office—and I predict we will soon be back in office—those who were opposite us howled to high heaven—as the hon. member for Norfolk is doing now. They howled about the inactivity of the government. Now they sit on their hands. Every lay-off which took place in those days was a national disaster and the fault of the Conservative government—that was the hue and cry of those who now sit on the treasury benches. Today the shutting down of whole industries fails to rouse them from their sleepwalking.

Mr. Woolliams: What complacency.

Mr. Starr: There is a whole section of the report of the Economic Council of Canada which I suggest the minister and his colleagues could read with profit if they have not already done so. It is headed "Policy

[Mr. Starr.]

Implications". At page 261 of the report, the economic council bluntly states:

These developments have led to a growing uneasiness in Canada about the current pace of the over-all advance in government spending. The council shares this uneasiness.

Surely the government cannot say the hand-writing is not on the wall. Here is a government agency pointing out that uneasiness is being felt across the country and that it shares this uneasiness. It is not only a question of the amount of spending being done but the direction which it is taking. The council points to the lack of co-ordination, the failure to define objectives, the fumbling and the multiplicity of programs. It gives guide lines which the Minister of Finance might well read to his colleagues at cabinet meetings when he is trying to get them to cut their expenditures in the present fiscal year, never mind the next fiscal year to which he has given so much publicity recently. Since they are not paying any attention to him they may pay attention to the guide lines of the council which appear on page 263 of the report.

I make these suggestions to the minister because in the field of manpower we are dealing with human beings and at times one gets the impression that the government tends to become a victim of self-hypnosis. The government puts down programs on paper without working out the details and it forgets that the test lies in their application to human situations. This does not seem to bother some of those on the other side. They do not care what happens to the young people who are drop-outs from school. They can join the "hippies" so far as the government is concerned; there are other government agencies which can deal with that problem. I ask the minister to look into that situation and to participate in the planning of training programs which could now be extended to these young people so that they can have faith in Canada and look toward a better way of life.

At this point I should like to deal briefly with immigration. I suggest that the government should not apply the points system too rigorously to human beings. There is a tendency in this modern age to use digits and formulae like the points system in relation to human beings. I suggest to the minister that this country was not built by people who came here under a points system. Such a system was never heard of in those days. Our country was built by all kinds of people, a great number of whom would have had difficulty in gaining admission under the new