

Had I enough time I could still refer to three formulas which are to be substituted for the removal, formerly called the deportation of the undesirable, but with some differences so as not to stigmatize some minor cases, namely the deportation order, the exclusion order and the departure. The bill under consideration is also aimed at improving control over foreign workers, including their protection, especially when they become illegal immigrants and run the risk of being exploited by unscrupulous employers who will henceforth have to account for their abuses. I could refer to a more humane formula for the reunification of families since the matter of age is no longer taken in consideration or still to some improved mechanisms of appeal, especially the appointment of an adjudicator.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill is so logical, simple and reasonable that it has received a wide support in the country, except from a few extremists for whom there would be no acceptable solution but their own. It is a legislation worthy of a country such as ours, open to the modern world by its liberality and its realism.

● (2050)

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak in this debate tonight, particularly after the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Portelance). I am all the more happy since he is present.

I shall try in my speech, as I usually do, to be at the same time objective and constructive. However, I shall obviously have some criticisms to direct, perhaps to the government, perhaps to the department, with regard to some items dealing with immigration. But before I come to that I want to mention that I favour a healthy immigration. Canada has space and resources and we need people to develop those, without taking the place of Canadians. On the contrary, we must develop those resources for the profit of Canadians and increase the population of our country. Let us not forget that future immigrants as well as their children will become new Canadians. That makes no problem.

We must also include in that regard, that is the development of our country, the emphasis on certain trades. There is nothing in this legislation to amend the present situation. Let me give you an example: a foreign physician who wants to practice in Canada and come as an immigrant must of course undergo a series of tests, which is perfectly normal, but I believe that after coming to Canada, he has to spend at least a full year in a hospital. But we all know that, since health insurance is in force in the province of Quebec, among other provinces—but since I represent a Quebec constituency, it is normal that I should give that province as an example—most of the doctors available for house calls are precisely, immigrants. I think the department should at least consider that kind of thing. It should not necessarily be in the act, but the regulations might make provision for such cases.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration referred to humanitarian cases. I fully agree

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with him, because I had some experience of such cases in my constituency. Before discussing a number of points, I should like to suggest to the government that it might be a good idea to revive a former program known as "My Country" and implement it every two years. It might prove useful to immigrants who came to Canada as visitors or temporary workers and who decided suddenly, since they were misinformed in their country of origin, that they would like to remain in Canada, because it is an open and democratic country where people can freely express themselves, say what they think without being necessarily put in jail.

I think that under these circumstances we should take this into account and not feel compelled to remove these people, especially when they are as respectable as some of those we have met. Officials are invested with a great many discretionary powers. I am not saying all these officials are not doing a good job, far from it, but I feel it is dangerous to give too much power to the officials responsible for the administration of the act, for they may be tempted to take advantage of their position, as has happened in a number of cases. I can say that the Immigration Act unfortunately discriminates between the legitimate child and the natural child, and that is why, when we dealt with the Interpretation Act last December, I moved that the word "child" be substituted, so that all children might be considered equal.

If I go over all these things, it is because there was at the immigration office a woman from Haiti who had submitted an application in her native country to come and live in Canada with her parents as a landed immigrant. Later on, I discovered that she had been granted only a student permit because she was an illegitimate child. So this is a defect which has to be corrected, because when her visa will expire this young woman will have to go back to her home country according to the law and then come back here, and our country will have to pay to get her over there while she will have to pay to come back here. I think there should be a little more flexibility when dealing with people in a humanitarian way.

In my opinion, the department should offer more protection to immigrants here in Canada. I have seen evidence, which I still have in my possession, of abuses with regard to new immigrants coming in our country; they went to some lawyers in Montreal and were charged more than \$300 only to have some immigration forms filled. That is exploitation! I think there might be some relevant legislation to punish those people who are exploiting immigrants. It seems to me that the department itself should initiate proceedings against those people who prey upon immigrants freshly arrived in our country and who, because they do not have yet any knowledge of our laws, trust nearly anyone and are pitifully swindled.

I am also thinking about a Portuguese woman who married a Canadian citizen. She was deported all the same. I understand that she may have got married soon before her deportation, but in any event, I think the young lady acted in good faith. She spoke French fluently and was living in the province of Quebec. In my opinion, such expenses should be avoided when prospective citizens are desirable. Why not keep them