

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

immigrant is paying; and we feel that the more reasonable the cost the more they will have when they get here to help them to get established. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that we do not want to have any steerage conditions.

Mr. Hamilton (York West): I welcome the word of the minister that other Canadian companies possibly may qualify for one part of this job. With respect to the companies now operating to Canada, I should like to know if the minister knows whether the actual seating arrangements, capacity of the aircraft and other items of that kind were approved. If he cannot tell me now, possibly he might arrange to find out and let me know.

Mr. Pickersgill: I would be very happy to find that out and let the hon. gentleman know. It is not something that is in my department and it is not something I would carry in my mind.

Mr. Montgomery: What are the regulations in relation to immigrants from China? Is anyone allowed in at all from the mainland of China? If so, is there a quota for the year or must they be sponsored by someone in Canada?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman will find that in the amended regulations passed on May 24 last year. In the section relating to other countries it is set out very clearly. I would not like to state it from memory because it is a little technical, but the only immigrants who are admitted are close relatives and the categories are set out there.

Mr. Holowach: With respect to the special consideration we have been extending to Hungarian refugees in Austria, does the same consideration and priority apply to Hungarian refugees who fled into Yugoslavia?

Mr. Pickersgill: The Secretary of State for External Affairs and I have been having some discussions in the last two or three days about the refugees in Yugoslavia. Up to the present we have dealt only with sponsored cases. If there was a relative there of someone in Canada we have admitted those relatives on the same basis as Hungarians from Austria, but otherwise we have had no facilities for arranging any movement. The other matter is under consideration at the present time.

Miss Aitken: I am sure the minister has met a great many difficulties in connection with the Hungarian immigrants. Other members of the house are meeting these difficulties too because, after all, the Hungarian immigrants are coming from a communist country and they are not screened. We find

people waiting to come here from non-communist countries. I should like to know what proof the departmental officials have to have to bar a would-be immigrant who comes from a non-communist country and whom the officials claim has communist inclinations. What proof must they have to keep such a person from coming into the country?

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry the hon. lady was not a member of the estimates committee a couple of years ago when we took two or three days on this extremely complicated question. It is the most complicated, and in my experience the most painful, aspect of the administration of my department when we, from time to time, reach the conclusion that relatives of very good people in Canada are people whom it would be unwise, in view of our spending billions on our national security, to allow into this country. In the nature of things, unfortunately we cannot prove these things. We cannot prove the allegation because most of the information, not all of it but most of the information, of such a character is obviously from sources that have to be protected or they cease to be sources. If you are going to have any kind of security screening at all there simply has to be an assumption that the people who do it, like our R.C.M.P.—I think all hon. members would agree with me that they are reliable—are reliable. If they make a report on such and such a person, from the sources to which they have access, in the ordinary circumstances it has to be treated with the greatest weight and the greatest respect. Really, that is the only basis upon which this can be done.

Of course, there are, at times, people who are quite notoriously and publicly known to be members of organizations whose aims and objects are those set out in the Immigration Act. In that case, there is probably no reason why they should not be told quite publicly. But it is very obvious also that if the department were to get into debates with the relatives of would-be immigrants about every individual case, we would spend far more time in that kind of activity than we would in what, after all, is the thing for which our taxpayers are paying our officials and that is the encouragement of immigration to Canada. It is an extremely difficult problem.

Mr. Nickle: Over the last two or three years the department of immigration, possibly in co-operation with the Department of Labour in Canada, undertook to bring in a rather limited number of female domestic servants from the British West Indies. Can the minister report on how successful or otherwise this particular program was, and more particularly if the program, which I believe involved about