

As I mentioned, the bill is 113 pages long. Given my limited time, I cannot begin to deal with every facet of the legislation, but I am going to highlight three general directions that I think are some cause for concern.

The first one is that the Conservative government continues to be preoccupied with, quite frankly, it dominates much of their agenda, the fast-tracking and increasing the proportion of immigrants with entrepreneurship and investment dollars. By that I do not mean that I or my party are against that category because in fact it was our party that created that immigration class within the Immigration Act. At the same time, the Liberal Party was prepared to put that class in a certain perspective. One of the first things that this government did in 1984, after assuming power, was double the number of immigrants with some cash.

There is nothing wrong with people who have made a buck. There is nothing wrong with people who create jobs and help the economic prosperity of a country. However, it is wrong if the message that goes out far and wide is that it is easier to come to this country if your pockets are deep than if your pockets are shallow. That clearly is a perception and a reality that has gone out from the first day that this government assumed power. There is a double standard at play that contradicts the history of immigration in this country.

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The history of immigration for this country has been that for many people, the vast majority of people, including my own parents, who had come to this country, their pockets were very shallow. Their hearts, however, were very big and their willingness to build for themselves and their families and their country was unchallenged and unquestionable. In the process, those immigrants who are now Canadian citizens today not only give thanks to a country like Canada but they reciprocate that thanks and that loyalty by giving back to the country and by building a foundation that is unshakable.

If the same laws were in place post-Second World War, many of those people would not have had the opportunity of coming to this country. Many of those people would not have been able to realize their dreams in that period. If that had been the case, Canada would not have been able to found itself on people who did not

have the big dollars but, as I mentioned, had shallow pockets and big hearts.

Therefore we have to be very careful in creating that double standard because an instant doubling or tripling of wealthy immigrants has had ramifications. In posts abroad I have visited as a former immigration critic for my party, I have talked to managers of those immigration operations and they have had to pull people, their visa officers, off other desks such as visitor visa or family class in order to facilitate the doubling and the tripling of quotas imposed by this government.

Not only have we had a preoccupation with trying to search for immigrants who are wealthy, but that has also played in a negative way against the other streams of immigrants just as worthy if not more.

Therefore what I have been advocating and what I advocate again is not to do away with that class but to put a greater perspective on it and not allow that entrepreneurial wealthy immigrant class to impose negatively and to have smaller numbers in our other classes of immigration so that we can satisfy those individuals with money. The second problem is that there is little follow-up in this country to ensure that the wealthy immigrant who has promised to build a mousetrap factory in Downsview, Ontario actually does so. There is little to no follow-up in order to ensure that that mousetrap has been built.

We get tougher on immigrants who do not have proper documentation than on the person who got a visa to build that mousetrap and who has not built it. Those individuals are not asked to leave. That follow-up is not done.

Not only are immigrants buying themselves into this country but in the end of it they are getting it free of charge because they have not put up the investment they promised.

That is the first concern with the preoccupation to help those who are only defined by the dollar sign. We have to take the program back, put it in perspective, ensure the follow-up and let us not let it undermine the other classes of immigration.

A second concern I have with the general direction of Bill C-86 is the whole question of family class. The government purports in Bill C-86 to try to accelerate the family unification but that is only the immediate family class. It says nothing or does nothing essentially for the extended family. If you compare the results from 1984 to