

*Immigration*

citizen rather than one who becomes a burden to our society. We have experience that shows that the important thing is the initiative of the individual, and that initiative is by no means restricted to those people who happen to have a trade or a professional skill of some kind.

If we are going to be serious about this problem from the point of view of humanitarianism and discernment, while at the same time meeting the needs of the Canadian labour market, we should be considering changes based on regional concerns.

I would conclude by simply asking the minister to clarify his position on the main purpose of this bill, telling us what his ground rules will be in respect of people who wish to return after having been deported for some reason other than criminal or undesirable activity. If there are no such guidelines issued in advance so that we know what to expect, perhaps the minister should consider an amendment to clarify his intention in this regard.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, before this debate began there was an agreement that the bill would be referred to the Committee of the Whole. There was unanimous agreement, and I concluded there was a disposition to complete at least second reading tonight. I wonder if there would be agreement that you not see the clock for a few minutes.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (2200)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the suggestion of the minister. Is there agreement not to see the clock for at least the completion of the second reading stage of this bill?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Speaker, I will agree to terminate my remarks at this point and continue them in Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Laniel in the chair.

**The Chairman:** House in Committee of the Whole on Bill S-12, to amend the Immigration Act.

On clause 1.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps it is better that we are now in Committee of the Whole for the completion of my remarks because, as I understand it, at this time we are in a position to expect answers and explanations from the minister which are necessary in order to expedite speedy passage of this bill, if that is the desire of the House. I should like to ask the minister whether he would clarify what guidelines he proposes to follow in terms of allowing ministerial permits to be issued to people who had been deported for reasons which were not of the type which could be construed as relating to criminal activity, but were simply as a result of the bending of some of our laws with regard to employment. What guidelines does the minister intend to use in such a case, and how difficult would it be for an individual who had been deported for that reason to obtain a permit? How long would he have to

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

wait? I would like to have a little more detail about the plans.

**Mr. Andras:** I did attempt to make some explanation on this point in my opening remarks on second reading. The real purpose of this is to bring to bear the pressure of a deterrent on those people whose motives in coming back may be quite reprehensible. In 1973, if I recall correctly, there were only about 128 such cases, so it is not the volume about which we are concerned. A total of 128 out of 70 million border crossings is a needle in the haystack in terms of border crossings. It is the intention to issue minister's permits where people who may be deportees give sufficient advance notice that they wish to come back for a specific understandable purpose such as I mentioned—illness, a funeral or even the happy case I described otherwise.

I would not want the hon. member to think that a person who had been deported because of prosecution under the law would be welcomed for a long stay. There is a discretion concerning the length of time for which a permit would be issued. We would not unduly withhold the minister's consent unless the person involved had a criminal record.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Would the minister care to inform us what the ratio is between those deported for criminal activity and those deported simply for some minor offence, such as taking employment while here on a tourist visa?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Chairman, the bulk of the deportations now, which include turning around at the border which could be voluntary departure as well as the acts of rejection, would be made up of people coming here who are considered to be non bona fide visitors coming for a purpose other than to visit. As to the criminal content of deportations, I am sorry I cannot give the hon. member the number off the top of my head, but the bulk of them would be people who are breaking our laws in terms of overstaying, or coming here without acceptable evidence that they are visitors.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** If that is the case, then it seems to me that this bill is shooting at a fly with a shotgun because what we are doing is excluding a large number of people for the rest of their lives for very minor offences, offences which are not dangerous to the security of the nation or to the people of the nation. If they want to come here as tourists or visitors, it seems to me that this is a rather severe measure.

**Mr. Andras:** I think the hon. member should be aware that it is unacceptable now under the present law for people to come back to Canada, having once been deported, without the minister's consent. Of course there is no punishment for that, but if we apprehend or identify them, we can deport them forthwith. What we are providing here is a deterrent for those people determined to come back illegally. In my comments earlier I indicated that there is discretion in the application or prosecution of this deterrent.

We do not intend to charge people who come to the border and inquire, or who are turned away at the border.