

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

This is a serious question because if an immigrant enters in an easygoing way he bypasses those who remain in their country and comply with the regulations in the normal manner. I appreciate that this is not fair, but at the present time the Immigration Act gives such visitors the right to stay in this country. There are, however, hundreds of cases, and I have 20 or 30 of my own, where people have been told "We cannot decide on your status; we will not let you in or turn you out; we have not made up our mind". I hope the minister will be able to come up with a policy in respect of these visitors. I tell the minister it is common knowledge among some ethnic groups that would-be immigrants should not try to obtain an immigrant's visa through the normal channels but rather should gain admittance to this country as visitors because they perhaps may be able to stay here. I know this is not a very nice problem.

I will conclude by asking the minister whether he has yet received the second report that was sought from Mr. Joseph Sedgwick of Toronto. Those who were in this house before will recall a time when there was quite a problem concerning people who were kept in detention for long periods awaiting a decision, and at that time Mr. Sedgwick was asked to furnish a report to the government on this matter. At the same time, when the present Minister of Labour was minister of citizenship and immigration he was asked to deal with the question of procedure on appeals and fair hearings and I know he went into that matter very thoroughly. I would ask the minister whether that report has yet been received and, if not, when does he expect it to be received? If it is available, will he make it available, as was the previous report, to the members of the house? I am sure it will be helpful.

I say to the minister that, notwithstanding the important responsibilities which devolve on him as minister of manpower, in dealing with the human and economic problems involved in immigration he will find not only a fascinating task but also a most demanding one. I think this is a field in which the long promised reform is overdue. When we talk about fair hearings and justice to others we must have regard for the principles involved and clear up these difficulties so far as immigration is concerned.

I wish the minister good luck in his task. I hope that when the white paper is prepared it will be thoroughly studied by a committee

[Mr. Brewin.]

and that this will be followed by a thorough investigation of the Act and regulations and the many points which need change. There are antiquated phrases like "insane" and such things in the Act which have no application today. The minister has undertaken a big task and I hope he will be able to carry it through.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Chairman, I have some brief statements to make tonight regarding the mobility program and the manpower program under the new department. I had a rather lengthy speech prepared but I am going to save the minister and myself from that in the interests of getting these estimates through as quickly as possible.

There are a number of things which concern me at this stage and I should like to bring them to the minister's attention. Before going into that, first of all I should like to congratulate the minister on his appointment. I might add that perhaps very few ministers who have ever received such an appointment have been met with such hope and optimism as has this present minister and his department. We know he has a great deal of experience and some of his initial statements in respect of a mobility program and manpower program are very encouraging.

I would particularly like to commend the minister on the statements he has already made in respect of the continuance of the unemployment insurance benefits during the period of retraining. I also would like to indicate our approval of his apparent decision to increase the grants for persons undergoing retraining. I think both of these measures are very important and very necessary and certainly will help to ensure that the retraining program—

The Chairman: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member. The topic of manpower came up under the Department of Labour. At present we are studying the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I should like to bring this to the attention of the hon. member.

• (7:50 p.m.)

Mr. Saltsman: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I shall adapt my remarks to conform with the rules. I think the congratulations which I extended apply equally to this as to the other department. I should like to raise a number of questions with the minister on the question of immigration. I have in the past raised with the present Minister of Labour the question of Portuguese immigration