

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

in the community in which they could live and, in view of the season, the speed with which many of them have been able to get employment.

**Mr. Fulton:** What is the situation with regard to the various provinces with whom discussions were proceeding with regard to sharing the cost of settlement? Is this question settled now, and if not what outstanding difficulties are there?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I do not know that we can say all the difficulties are over. We have been having some discussions, and some of the correspondence has been tabled, but there has been other correspondence since, with the government of Ontario. So far as the federal government is concerned, we have merely made an offer to Ontario to make payments on the same basis as we are making them to Saskatchewan. It is entirely within the jurisdiction of Ontario to decide whether or not they want to take our money. In the case of Saskatchewan, there have been a few minor problems, not all of which have been completely ironed out. I think we have completely satisfactory arrangements with Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. I believe there are still some discussions going on with New Brunswick. None of these discussions has in any way interfered with the movement of the refugees.

**Mr. Herridge:** I am a bit concerned about one aspect of this question. I have had it brought to my attention from responsible sources inside the employment service in Toronto, for instance, that several veterans lost jobs, older veterans, to these refugees. For instance, there was a janitor who was working for \$125 a month, and the owner of the building fired him and hired a Hungarian for \$60 a month. Is the minister doing everything possible to make sure that that sort of thing is stopped?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Certainly, my department would be doing nothing, and neither would the national employment service, to encourage that sort of thing. We would do everything to discourage it. I have heard general suggestions of that kind on a number of occasions, and I do not say they are not correct; but to my knowledge no one has ever brought a specific case to the attention of our department and asked us to provide any remedy.

**Mr. Herridge:** Will the minister have inquiries made, through the Minister of Labour, of the national employment service?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I shall be glad to do that.

**Mr. Blair:** A while ago the minister was talking about indigent immigrants. Who pays their hospital bills when they become ill? Is it the municipality in which they reside, that is in the first year or in succeeding years before they establish citizenship?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** In this question, I take it the hon. member is referring to immigrants generally. We have an agreement with nearly all the provinces, certainly with the province of Ontario, whereby the federal and provincial governments share the cost of hospital services on a fifty-fifty basis. Municipalities do not pay that at all in the first year. At the end of the first year it is assumed that immigrants, having established residence, should be treated like other residents of Canada, and that has always been the assumption.

**Mr. Blair:** Established residence but not necessarily citizenship?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Oh, no.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** On that same point, can the minister say whether the agreement applies to Manitoba? Would it cover emergency surgery, for example?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Well, I assume that would apply to anything that needed to be done, that an immigrant asked to have done. Of course, the province administers this service. We pay half the cost. That is not true in the case of Hungarians in one or two provinces. We have established an agreement with Saskatchewan, but Manitoba elected the alternative we offered; that is to say, that all people who were landed as immigrants would be treated under the federal-provincial scheme now in existence and all those who could not qualify as landed and were here, therefore, as non-immigrants, would be the exclusive responsibility of the federal government. I am speaking of Hungarians now.

**Mr. Brooks:** Is it not a fact that some of the Hungarians brought in were known to be indigent and helpless poor? What responsibility would fall on municipalities in that connection?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Up to the present none. Actually I am afraid all of the Hungarians who were brought in were known to be indigent but happily nearly all of them were in very good health. It is true that some of them were not able to pass our medical requirements but we felt we should do—and I announced it last November—just what the United Kingdom did; that is to say, to take them as they came; those who wanted to come to Canada would be allowed to come and not leave all the difficult cases for the Austrians. Therefore, we have had a few cases