

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. What is done or what happens when a group of Indians are voted out of an Indian band? What becomes of them? Is anything done by the department to see that they find a new home or get on a different reserve? What are the plans?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman is under a slight misapprehension. No Indian can be voted out of a band; no Indian can be deprived of his Indian status. But, as the hon. gentleman knows, since he participated in the revision of the Indian Act, which I did not, the Indian Act does provide legal procedure for the determination of who is or is not an Indian. When the status of an alleged Indian is challenged by another, that legal procedure, which was laid down by this parliament, is followed, and I think every hon. member, and certainly the Leader of the Opposition, would insist that the government should carry out the law as laid down by parliament. That is precisely what we are doing.

Mr. Ferguson: They join the C.C.F., don't they?

IMMIGRATION**ADDITIONAL RECEPTION AND HEALTH FACILITIES
FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration with regard to reception arrangements being made for Hungarian refugees arriving in Canada, and particularly whether the dominion government has arranged to provide any additional reception and health facilities of its own for their accommodation and instruction until such time as they can be fitted into the employment picture in Canada?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Well, as the hon. gentleman very well knows, all the arrangements that have been made so far for the reception of the Hungarian refugees, over and above the normal facilities existing in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, have been on an ad hoc basis, in an effort to meet the problems as they have developed. I believe that up to the present we in Canada have been able to provide adequate reception for everyone who has arrived, perhaps not quite as nice as we sometimes would have liked it, but it has been pretty satisfactory, thanks, not nearly so much to the government as to the great

generosity of the Canadian people, for which I am sure everyone in the house is grateful; and I have no doubt that if more facilities are needed in one way or another they will be provided either by the federal government or by provincial and local authorities, and I hope in large part by voluntary agencies. Up to the present the facilities have been adequate to meet the flow but this present week is going to see the biggest flow yet of Hungarian refugees across the country.

OLD AGE PENSIONS**INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE INCREASE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Despite the omission of the subject from the speech from the throne, can the Prime Minister say whether the government is still considering asking parliament at this session to raise the amount of the old age pension?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): If there is any announcement to be made in that respect it will not require a question from the hon. member to have the announcement made.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The house resumed, from Tuesday, January 8, consideration of the motion of Mr. R. F. L. Hanna for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I first through you extend to the mover (Mr. Hanna) and the seconder (Mr. Robichaud) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, not only my congratulations on the outstanding manner in which they discharged their responsibilities—and I say that not in a routine manner—but also may I add my personal appreciation and thanks for the warm references they so kindly made regarding myself. I deeply appreciate what they said and I may add, sir, that I appreciate the attitude in general of my colleagues on both sides of the house who in their attitude toward me have revealed that understanding which becomes of the essence of our parliamentary system. As the years go by and as we face one another across the house, we develop that regard and respect for those who do not agree with us without which our parliamentary system would be meaningless and ineffectual.