

Immigrant Contribution

New immigrants have made and will continue to make a vital contribution to our economic development, to our expansion. As consumers, they increase the demand for domestically-produced goods and this additional demand creates new employment opportunities, new income, further demand throughout the country. And the impetus to the expansion of our domestic consumer market encourages the development of more efficient units of production, the establishment of newer and more diversified industrial enterprises and the reduction of our dependence upon the vagaries and uncertainties of external trade.

All this is quite apart from the new capital, the new assets brought to Canada by those who settle on hundreds of farms, by those who establish new industries. In 1962, over \$100 million in cash and other assets have been added to our economic stream by immigrants.

Ethnic Diversity

But look at the less mercenary aspect! The enrichment of Canadian life, the advancement of our culture! Each day I have reminders of how new arrivals, filled with enthusiasm, energy and the will to succeed have enriched our national culture, expanded our Canadian tradition in fields such as science, education, the arts -- yes, even in politics. As I look about the House of Commons, I am reminded of our ethnic diversity, from the present Prime Minister (the first Prime Minister not of Anglo-Saxon, or French origin), the delightful Minister of Labour, the many, many Members in whose veins flows the blood of many lands. Myself, something of an Irish rebel, I don't lament the tempering of Anglo-Saxon and Norman attitudes in politics by the spirit and enthusiasm of other bloods.

...I was not long on the job before I realized one thing - and it is at the very core of the administration of immigration which I intend to pursue. My task is to bring warm-hearted, human understanding to the cold print of immigration laws. The admission of immigrants, because of their economic contribution, because of factors which I might describe as economic opportunism - this cannot be the whole answer. Humanitarian and moral considerations are basic considerations to be respected, to be applied in the administration of our immigration laws. The fundamental task of any Minister of Immigration is to maintain a fair, impartial and non-discriminatory administration, coupled (and I emphasize that word coupled) with a warm and sympathetic understanding of the basic human problems involved.

Setting Objectives

Dangerous perhaps it is to endeavour to say in any particular year what is a desirable level of immigration or to set long-range goals. But I believe, nonetheless, that we must step up our objectives, set targets for ourselves. In my view,