

*Immigration*

There is the whole matter of the question of refugees. The minister has taken a forward step by indicating there will be a new classification of refugees. However, in his statement and in the bill it seems to be almost totally tied to the United Nations convention definition of refugee. If the minister has read the report, in particular Section 93, he will note that the special joint committee stated very clearly that it regards the United Nations definition of refugee as too narrow and not adequate to accommodate the present variety of circumstances.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his allotted time has expired. He may only continue with unanimous consent. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (2010)

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall not take up much more of the time of the House as I know there are others who wish to speak on this subject.

To continue with that quotation from the joint committee report, section 93:

One difficulty is the stipulation that the person be outside his country to qualify as a refugee. Canada has eased this requirement to accommodate Chileans and Ugandans.

More specifically, as the minister well knows, there was in the case of Uganda, and particularly in respect to Chile, the establishment of a new definition, that of the "oppressed minority" group to deal with the very difficult situation of people who to all intents and purposes would be suffering or experiencing the same kind of difficulty refugees normally encounter but who were still resident within their own country. For the minister to go only as far as adopting the UN definitions and conventions on refugees seems to me to be an inadequate approach. It is a fact, of course, that the minister has not stated clearly either the framework or the procedures for dealing with refugees. In view of recent problems concerning refugee movements from Latin America, this does not give one much encouragement or confidence in the fairness or efficacy of the refugee provisions in the bill before us.

The move to establish a system of visas as suggested in the bill, is ignoring the firm recommendation made by the special joint committee to use exit and entry cards as a first step toward proper and effective control of illegal migrant movements, which seems to me to have been a sensible recommendation from the standpoint of the committee. Again, the minister did not see fit to accept that recommendation, and moved instead to provide for the utilization of visas under the measure before us, something which at best will be cumbersome and, I think, at worst, could create some great difficulty for Canadians who have generally enjoyed satisfactory travel arrangements with many countries and would find it increasingly bothersome, if not offensive, to be saddled with the kind of visa requirements which the minister seems to be favouring.

The whole question of appeals under the Immigration Appeal Board is interesting. When the Immigration Appeal Board appeared before the special joint committee a great deal of discussion, and their recommendation, centred on a return to the pre-1973 situation with respect to providing at least the possibility of an appeal in each and every instance, rather than ruling them out automatically for a number of different categories or classifications. This was the substance of much of the discussion taking place before the committee before the recommendation was made. The attitude or response reflected in the bill has to do with a reduced ambit of power with respect to the Immigration Appeal Board.

With regard to the department itself, again the minister seems intent on moving in the opposite direction. The committee wrestled for a long time with the question of whether or not the Departments of Manpower and Immigration should be separated. There were arguments both pro and con on the advantages of such a division. There were also discussions on bringing in other aspects of immigration policy in terms of the whole demographic question, cultural questions, and citizenship.

As I am sure the minister knows from reading the report of the special joint committee, the recommendation was to develop an immigration department which would include much more than the narrow definitions of manpower and employment. Yet we have before us not only this bill, but companion legislation which the minister is presently bringing before parliament, Bill C-27, which attempts to establish a Canada employment and immigration commission. One reads of the structure and definitions outlined in that legislation and gets the clear impression that what the minister is attempting here is to direct the thrust of immigration policies more and more toward an employment and vocational kind of arrangement. The joint special committee made it clear that the tying of employment opportunities to the day to day movement of people with respect to immigration is to get into a program which, I think, becomes unworkable, and in many instances unjust.

If the minister has studied the workings of his own department in recent years he will realize that by the time much of the information made available with respect to favourable employment opportunities became available and could be matched with those who were applying as immigrants at various immigration posts around the world, there would really not be too much which could be made of it in terms of either the specific immigrants involved or the general health of the Canadian economy.

Now we come to the delicate question of the impact of immigration on the province of Quebec, the problem of the increasing assimilation of elements of the Francophone community and the larger Anglophone community of Canada and North America, and the necessity of doing as much as is, with justice, humanly possible under the Immigration Act to assist the development of the population of Quebec through immigration. Apart from the general references with respect to consultation which will take place under this new act with all