

Immigration Act

raising families born in this country. I know of a husband who has not received his citizenship papers, but his wife, the mother of the family, has received them. As I said, sometimes these people make mistakes. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I do not think this system should continue from year to year. And what is much worse, these immigrants are not given an explanation for their citizenship papers having been refused, and sometimes when they are deported they are not given the reason for their deportation. We have in this country a bill of rights. The bill of rights should not apply only to the Canadian citizen; it should have the same applicability to a landed immigrant. He too should have the right to present his case, and if injustice has been done it should be corrected.

I am very much in favour of this bill, Mr. Speaker. I hope it will come to a vote, or if not, that at least it will be presented to a committee so it can be discussed in detail. I see that I have very little time left. I would definitely like this bill either to come to a vote or be referred to the appropriate committee. I am very pleased that I have had the opportunity to say these few words on this bill.

Mr. J. J. Greene (Renfrew South): Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to commend the proponent of the bill. I think its subject matter is certainly important and pertinent at this time. I should also like to commend the last speaker, the hon. member for Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale (Mr. Rapp). I think that in his address to this house we heard a very moving plea for the subject matter of the bill, and I think those of us who are interested in its subject matter are particularly interested by reason or virtue of some association we have had with persons who have become citizens of this country and have played such a very great part in its development and growth. In fact, some of those people who were new citizens not too many years ago have even become members of this honourable house. I often wonder how many other good men and women we have rejected who might have made a contribution just as effective, just as important, as have some of those good men and women, simply because our procedures were too restrictive, simply because while on the one hand we preached the doctrine of the necessity of immigration, on the other we did very little in the past to encourage it, to make the road easy, to make the road just, to make the road equitable.

As is the case with other hon. members, I do not associate the present minister and his associate with this situation. They have not yet had time to do to the immigration policy, practices and procedures what we hope

[Mr. Rapp.]

will be done during their tenure of office, namely make them broader, wider, more just, and make the procedures such that for the first time they are up above the table, instead of down below somewhere, where we have to crawl on our hands and knees to find among the dust why people have been precluded from entering this country in the past. I do suggest, as the parliamentary assistant said, that this is not as simple a procedure as would be a courtroom procedure. However, I think we have all known of cases where, for reasons unknown and for reasons undisclosed, immigration was not permitted. I have seen, in my limited association with this department over the past ten years or so, several ministers who intended fully when I spoke to them to correct these things. I have heard them publicly on many occasions deprecate the fact that immigration must be in some way hidden. They have said that the reasons for refusal of permission to enter the country or to stay here as a citizen should be brought out in the light of public disclosure where a person would have, as he has in any matter affecting civil rights otherwise, the right to defend himself or herself, the right to hear why he or she is being refused.

I know that many ministers in good faith and with the best of intent have intended in the past to remedy this deplorable situation that has existed for so long; but somehow the weight of bureaucracy, of circumlocution of the department has been too much for their efforts. It is to be hoped, with this new enlightened government and with this new minister who is, I know, keen to do these things, and who has the very able help of his experienced parliamentary assistant, that under this administration we will succeed in remedying this situation which lesser beings have not been able to do in the past.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. It is my duty to inform the house that, the hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business having expired, the house will now resume the business interrupted at five o'clock.

REDISTRIBUTION**PROVISION FOR BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONS AND READJUSTMENT OF REPRESENTATION**

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-72, to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions to report upon the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons and to provide for the readjustment of such representation in accordance therewith—Mr. Pickersgill—Mr. Batten in the chair.