

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board

immigrate from behind the iron curtain, from such countries as Yugoslavia and Poland, without this bogey of security being raised against them. They have gone to France, to West Germany and other countries to join the labour force there, and they have done valuable work. I said that people came in their thousands. I should have said in their tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands.

The parliamentary secretary will recall that just a week ago he and I were in Toronto serving on the special committee which is dealing with the subject of immigration. A number of people appeared before us and I wish to mention particularly the representatives of the Canadian Polish Congress. These are people, every one of them, who are as determinedly anti-communist as anyone in this chamber or in Canada. They are determined there will be no subversion in Canada. Moreover they are people with particular knowledge of conditions in Europe. They told us we were way out of date in our security measures with respect to immigration. They said that if we allowed applicants to come in, 99 per cent of them would be "with us". It would be necessary to exclude those who might be thought to present a danger as saboteurs or spies, but it would be wrong to exclude the large mass of these people on security grounds because it was not possible to get a security report on them or because they came from some country, such as Italy, where there was a substantial communist party with which they might have been connected. I believe it is wrong to say to all these people that they cannot come in and that they will not be told the reasons alleged against them. We know that even in this country there have been cases of mistaken identity.

It is my submission that here we have the core of the problem of giving a fair hearing to would-be immigrants. This legislation in general is admirable legislation, but if we take the whole question of security out of it and say that a particular group of people shall have no rights at all, we are destroying the good effect of whatever we are doing in this bill. I realize that this whole question of security is now being considered by Mr. Mackenzie and the other commissioners. Nevertheless I appeal to the minister to take a serious look at the amendment which I am suggesting. It fully guarantees the non-disclosure of sources, while at the same time permitting those concerned to enjoy the rights conferred by this bill, without any surrender

[Mr. Brewin.]

of national security. This right of appeal will only be a half right, or no right at all, if some of the people are denied it by the mere issue of a certificate.

I see it is nearly six o'clock. I would be glad to furnish the minister and other hon. members who are interested with copies of my proposed amendment. I do not believe I can move it at this particular stage.

An hon. Member: Can the hon. member produce the amendment?

Mr. Brewin: I have it right here.

Mr. Marchand: Is the hon. member moving it or simply making a suggestion at this stage?

Mr. Brewin: I understand that the hon. member for Carleton has proposed an amendment and I think it would be out of order if I were to move mine, now. The minister could perhaps treat it as a suggestion subject to any alteration he might propose.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): The only comment I have to make is this: I hope the hon. gentleman is not inferring that my amendment will be defeated.

Mr. Brewin: I do not know; I am not a prophet.

Mr. Marchand: I think the points which have been raised cannot be dealt with in this bill. Reference has been made to the situation of prospective immigrants from countries behind the iron curtain who cannot apply to come to Canada. I think the solution to this problem must be found within the general policy and administration of the department not within this bill. We are working on this and I hope that I can announce to the house in the near future that we have overcome certain difficulties in this connection.

We are aware of this problem and we probably share the opinions of the hon. member with regard to it, but we have to devise ways and means of processing the applications of prospective immigrants from behind the iron curtain in the same way as other applications are processed. If we were dealing only with these cases, I think a solution would be easy. But we are not. We are dealing with cases where evidence is produced by the R.C.M.P. or by other agencies concerning not only people who are termed subversive elements, but concerning criminals. I am not talking, here, in terms of the security of the state alone; I am thinking of the security of individuals.