

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

far as I am concerned, I realize that the goal is still to be reached. I also think that the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) finds himself in the same situation.

I should like to come back to the economic question, the sore spot in the objections of most people. I believe that here, in a nutshell, is Quebec's main objection: we now have 200,000 unemployed and, if we were to accept 100,000 Italians each year, would we then have 300,000 jobless people after two years and an additional 100,000 a year later?

I feel that, at this time, it is possible, through the publicity media available, to educate the population in regard to the economy, so that they may understand that the economy of a country expands with its population, and that the more the population of the country increases, the more the Canadian economy will be buoyant and prosperous.

In my opinion, the population of Quebec can understand this reality as well as that of the other provinces. All we have to do is use television, radio and newspapers to carry out an objective publicity campaign and to put forward these facts which will substantiate my statements.

Mr. Chairman, before I conclude my remarks, I must point out that we need a larger population to settle our huge territory.

We also have a responsibility to the population of the overpopulated countries, and in my opinion we must prepare ourselves to face this responsibility by offering reasonable economic conditions and by opening wider the gates of Canada to immigrants, so that we can develop our country and build here a truly Canadian industry, owned by Canadians and in a position to compete on world markets.

We must do that, while safeguarding the rights of the French Canadian minority in this country, giving it the assurance that it will survive, that it is in no danger of being assimilated and that it will always have the place to which it is entitled, from the point of view of its percentage of the total population as well as from the economic point of view.

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Mr. Cantelon: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say something about immigration from the West Indies, possibly on the same line as that taken by the hon. member for Winnipeg North. Immigration from the West Indies has been poor in numbers, and I suppose this is because we have imposed restrictions. I am sorry we have these restrictions, because in most cases West

Indians speak at least one of our two official languages. They have the same ethical standards as ourselves, though I am free to admit they do not always observe them any better than we do; and, of course, they are members of the commonwealth. These ought to be sufficient reasons for us to remove restrictions on West Indian immigration. Of course I must also say we need to be careful not to remove all the restrictions, because there are many people in the West Indies who could not make a living in Canada and who would not fit into our society.

In 1952 when the present Immigration Act was passed, some 710 people came to Canada from the West Indies, and until 1955 the annual rate of immigration from that area ran at around that very low figure. In 1956 one restriction was removed and immigrants were allowed to enter Canada from the West Indies provided they were designated by the West Indian government as domestic servants. When that happened some 1,058 of them came to Canada, and during the next five years immigration remained in that range.

In 1962 the government decided it would be advantageous to remove that particular regulation and put in its place a restriction—perhaps I should not use the word restriction—rather, a regulation allowing people with certain educational standards, training and skills to enter Canada from the West Indies, and in that year some 1,480 immigrants came to Canada from the West Indies. Further, the then government sent immigration teams to the West Indies, and partly as a result of their work and as a result of the new regulation, in 1963 some 2,227 people came to Canada from the West Indies, still a very small number but at least those who came were able to fit into our society.

A total of 75,000 people left the West Indies in 1962, of whom only 1,480 came to Canada, but it is obvious there are many people in the West Indies who would like to settle elsewhere. I request the minister to review this whole problem carefully and introduce liberalizing measures which would allow entry into our society of more West Indians capable of making their living in Canada.

It would be unwise to open the doors wide and let them all flood in, because they are not accustomed to our climate and I am afraid some of them could not adjust to our system of living. However, the previous Liberal minister of citizenship and immigration said his government wanted to remove any stain of racial discrimination from the Immigration