

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

I think the hon. member for Kootenay West also spoke of a particularly offensive person whom he met on the coast. I would not want to defend conduct such as he has described. I would only hope that this person who came from Germany would learn that however much he might like to ape the traditions of a regime that we hope has gone forever, those things are not wanted or desirable in Canada.

**Mr. Herridge:** That is what I hope.

**Mr. Harris:** I have always taken the view—and I think it has been true of most hon. members—that service in the German army by a German national should not be held against him. That is his duty in time of war.

**Mr. Fulton:** Does the minister apply that principle to the SS, the elite guard?

**Mr. Harris:** I shall come to that matter. I have taken the view that under those circumstances we may very well receive people who, with their military training and perhaps with a training of mind that we do not approve, might carry forward in peacetime certain undesirable characteristics; but that if the peacetime record of the person is good or, shall I say, not bad, the fact that he was in the German army should not be held against him.

The hon. member for Kamloops has asked me a direct question with respect to the SS troops. We have repeatedly had reports of former SS troopers being in Canada. Like some of these other stories that have been mentioned this afternoon, they crop up from time to time. There may be some people here who belonged to the SS. I do not know. We have never consciously admitted them. Yet I recognize the fact that you can deceive one of our immigration officers. You can deceive the screening group. You can deceive everybody and can get into Canada.

I want to make this one exception to what I have said. I think there is no reason why I should not make this clear. At one period in the war nationals of countries that were occupied by Germany were conscripted into the army and put into the SS divisions. I could give the reasons for that. It was that the German general staff did not want them in the German formations; at least that appears to have been the case. So when we obtain an application here from a close relative for the bringing forward of a relative who had served in these groups, we look at the record to find whether, in fact, he may have been a Roumanian or a Pole or from some of these other occupied countries, whether he was a volunteer or a conscript, the circumstances of his service and his whole personal record. But those cases are quite few in number. The general practice is that

anybody who has served in the SS troops is not welcome to this country.

I think the hon. member for St. Paul's made one general reference to some of our difficulties. I appreciated the friendly manner in which he acknowledged there were certain difficulties. I do not think the department overlooks the humanitarian aspect at all, but we are bound to refuse even close relative requests under the circumstances I have just mentioned. We do refuse such requests. It would therefore be easy to point to cases where very close relatives could not understand why they could not bring forward the one that they wanted to bring forward. At the same time we find it impossible to grant their requests.

The hon. member for Oxford referred to an incident in western Ontario last fall. He need not be surprised that I am aware of it. I read the newspapers just as he does and, I say with great respect, perhaps go a little further and have the department investigate the circumstances. I do not mean to cast any reflection on my hon. friend by what I have just said. It did happen that at one period there were a number of German and other farm workers who left their employment. This took place over a short time. The number was not large; I do not think it exceeded twenty. Coincidentally the story about the black car arose. I apologize for saying that there was no black car. What I meant was there was no black car of this nature.

One of these men was upset by his relatives who had happened to settle in Quebec and the following day he left. The impression got about that in the motorcar was a person who was going about soliciting people to leave their employment. We followed up the story and found in almost every case that those who had left were working, some in the brickyard at Cooksville and others in the city of Toronto. There was no recruiting for industries in the province of Quebec that we could find.

I only mention that to suggest that we do try to follow up these things in every way we can in order that these persons shall carry out the obligations they have undertaken. I think I have covered all the particular cases that have been raised.

The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart asked me to table a return showing Indian children attending non-Indian schools, and I should like to have permission to do that.

**The Chairman:** Has the minister leave?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.