

I am particularly happy to be a member of the Liberal party.

Mr. Alexander: I was listening; now you are spoiling it.

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): The Liberal Party has a very human and realistic outlook on the way to treat people from other lands. I am particularly happy with the way people who have had special difficulties have been treated. Going back to the Hungarian revolt, I think Canadians responded tremendously well in bringing over people from Hungary when they were in difficulties back in 1956.

I am happy that we as Canadians welcome people from all parts of the world, and I hope that, as we move along with changes in the Citizenship Act and the Immigration Act, many of these basic principles we have discussed will be preserved. We must treat people on an equal basis regardless of where they come from.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand), who has just spoken, attributed remarks I made the other evening to the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Whittaker), and I think he would like to attribute them to me as the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay, the constituency in which he was born.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would now like to take part in the discussion on the motion under consideration for the second reading and the reference of Bill C-20 respecting citizenship to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

As a member of the Special Joint Committee on Immigration Policy, I wish to take part in the debate. All the members of that committee have acquired considerable experience travelling throughout Canada to hear those who have arrived here and must wait for years before being accepted.

To situate that problem, I think we must consider that our country interests a lot of people, most of them coming from south-east countries as well as from India and elsewhere. However, we have a problem of which those people are unaware—our cold winter and a much higher standard of living than in their own country. In my opinion, those people do not know what they are getting into when they come to Canada and some had not expected the difficulties they face the moment they arrive or even two or three years later.

Mr. Speaker, in Canada one must first of all secure oneself against those problems by working every day to earn a living. There are however other problems. Immigrant children must attend schools where English or French is the main language. After a few years, they are greatly disappointed because they realize that their children, after having attended school for two, three or four years, learned nothing or almost nothing, are not prepared, do not see things as Canadians do, do not live the same way, etc.

Citizenship

We also have a problem that I consider very serious. The minister responsible for immigration is not also responsible for citizenship. I think both matters should fall under the same department. We have often heard of this problem from witnesses who appeared before the committee, and I agree with those who have to deal with it when they say that it is a major one. That boils down to the same thing. Before an immigrant can obtain Canadian citizenship, the authorities must establish his or her working experience before coming to a decision. The file must certainly travel from one department to the other, and the background information obtained from the Immigration Department is certainly taken into account when the time comes to decide whether or not to grant Canadian citizenship to an immigrant.

One cannot help wonder about those who are living outside the law or those who prefer living outside the law. I am thinking, for instance, of tourists; they come here as tourists and end up finding a job somewhere, either on a farm, or in some manufacture, and when they have found a job, particularly in the area of services, where it is even less personal, for a town or a city, then they tend to change their names or to be less easily identifiable, and after four, five, six or seven years, we have somebody who wants to become a Canadian citizen, but we do not have his itinerary, we do not know where he comes from, what he has done, nothing at all.

● (1620)

The case of students is also well known, those students who are imposed upon us by all kinds of organizations. They come from everywhere and they are imposed upon us by all kinds of organizations, and still the provinces do not have any control over those students. I am referring to college or university students, who are either sent here by some fund, or under exchange programs, etc. They arrive here; they may study for two, three, four or five years. I have heard of some who studied in the university for eight years, they collect degrees, because they do not want to go back home; it is as simple as that. And so, they write to the foundation or the benevolent society which accepts them, especially in the province of Quebec where we are really at a disadvantage in this field. Why? Because they take the place of our own students, as there is not sufficient room for our own students in several universities; those students—I would call them perpetual students—keep on collecting diplomas. That is why I feel that the Department of Citizenship should be amalgamated with the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

There is also the matter of seasonal workers. We now accept seasonal workers in many cases when they cannot be found elsewhere in Canada. For instance, in northern Canada, we took in seasonal workers; now, today those workers have taken root here. Most are good citizens, honest people, and because they now have roots here, they do not want to leave Canada. But under the terms of their hiring contract as seasonal workers the Department of Citizenship cannot accept them as Canadian citizens. We therefore end up with a hodge-podge, a problem. When attempts are made to send them back to their own country, or when they are forced to go back, and all the more so then we have to resort to deportation, they appeal to the