

Immigration Act

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, there are a number of points which I feel are still worth consideration in this house before the bill is adopted. Section 61(g) of the present Immigration Act would be eliminated if this bill were adopted. In the course of his presentation of this bill, and as a result of questions by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), the parliamentary secretary stated that it would be very difficult indeed to bring in regulations if the entire section were omitted. I believe the hon. member for Greenwood also referred to paragraph (b) of the section, which refers to illiteracy, medical or other examination and tests. The hon. member felt that the necessary regulations could hinge upon the interpretation of that paragraph of the section.

I do not believe this is so, Mr. Speaker. There are many reasons why the Immigration Act is being reviewed. I was pleased, as I am sure was the hon. member for Greenwood and all other hon. members in the house, to hear the statement made a few moments ago by the minister about the white paper and the work which is being done on the revision of the act. I am sure that none of us favour the sections which rely on ministerial discretion; they are far too broad. But I would ask the hon. member for Greenwood, through you, Mr. Speaker, this question: Is he prepared to say that if he struck out this section there would be authority in the act for regulations which would prohibit a group of immigrants whose custom was, for example, nude parading?

Mr. Brewin: I would have no objection at all.

Mr. Francis: Or a group of individuals who were dedicated to terrorism as an instrument of social change and who resorted to dynamiting—

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is asking me a question I wonder

whether I could reply to it by saying that there are ample provisions in the act itself to exclude—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. The hon. member has already made his speech. If he wishes to answer this question he would require the unanimous consent of the house, and it must be understood that he is not closing the debate.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Brewin: I would point out to the hon. member that section 5 of the act contains all sorts of exclusions on the ground of terrorist activities, and so on. You do not require this discriminatory section.

Mr. Francis: I think we are all dedicated to the proposition of government by law and regulation, so far as it is possible to do so. But this is the section of the act which contains the feature that none of us like, and I commend the hon. member for Greenwood for bringing it to the attention of this house. None of us endorses racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is not applied by regulation but is potentially there through the wording of the act.

An hon. Member: Six o'clock.

Mr. Francis: I think the wording of the section, particularly that dealing with peculiar customs, habits, modes of life or methods of holding property, permits the development of regulations which are absolutely essential for the administration of the Immigration Act in the public interest.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. The hour for the consideration of private members' business has expired. It being six o'clock this house stands adjourned until two thirty o'clock on the afternoon of Monday next.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.