

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Ward Smith from the Attorney General's office in Toronto give testimony on the different aspects of the breathalyzer test.

We have also read newspaper reports about blood tests and how much more easily they can be performed now. May I assure the hon. member that the remarks he has made this evening on the subject will receive the attention of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin) and his officials, to whom I shall direct them tomorrow.

IMMIGRATION—APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION BY THOSE WITH VISITORS' VISAS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, on June 16 I asked the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) a question as to when he would be able to announce government policy in respect to the many thousands of non-immigrants who have applied for permanent immigration to Canada and whose status is in suspense, and I welcome the opportunity to expand on that question tonight.

It affects the whole system of immigration and its administration, and it is of great importance to thousands of people now resident in Canada, and their families. A serious administrative mess has developed in regard to this matter.

On March 7, as recorded at page 2323 of *Hansard*, when speaking on the estimates of the department, I raised this same question and said:

As the minister will have found out, for many months now and perhaps a year or two the government have been saying they were going to make up their mind on what to do in the case of visitors who come into this country as visitors with non-immigrant visas, and apply to stay in this country. As the minister knows, there is a great backlog of cases awaiting decision while the department makes up its mind in respect of what to do with these visitors.

I went on to say:

This is a serious question because if an immigrant enters in an easygoing way he bypasses those who remain in their country and comply with the regulations in the normal manner.

● (10:20 p.m.)

I appreciate that this is not fair—

I went on to say that there were many many cases in which the department was saying "we cannot decide on your status; we will not let you in or turn you out; we have not made up our mind".

I hope the minister will be able to come up with a policy in respect of these visitors. I tell the [Mr. Haidasz.]

minister it is common knowledge among some ethnic groups that would-be immigrants should not try to obtain an immigrant's visa through the normal channels but rather should gain admittance to this country as visitors because they perhaps may be able to stay here.

Then the minister in reply to this debate on March 7 at page 2327 of *Hansard* said:

I think that very soon, and I hope that it will be within a few weeks . . . we will be able to deal with this situation under which visiting Canada has now become a normal means of coming as an immigrant . . .

It is a hypocritical situation which explains why in Canada there are probably several thousands, possibly tens of thousands of visitors who came to Canada with the intention of staying.

We shall probably advise you, since it can be done according to the rules, on a policy to deal with this situation.

It is utterly unbearable. Mr. Chairman, as long as I am Minister of Immigration, which will probably not be for long but still while I am, we shall attempt to set up a policy. But once it is drawn up, we shall have to accept it.

It is now more than 3½ months later and the minister has announced no policy. The situation grows worse. We are told there are 20,000 people in this state of suspension, some of them no doubt bona fide visitors, who have come to this country and who after they arrived were offered jobs or became engaged to be married to Canadians, and then changed their minds and decided to stay. However, there are many others who came to this country as visitors because they did not want to come in formally and apply in the necessary manner. When they are here they get a job and are left in a state of suspension. They cannot bring in their families and even though they are planning to strike roots in Canada, they do not know whether or not later on they will be thrown out. I wonder whether it will be possible to throw them out.

This situation is being exploited. Among the immigrants I have heard it said that travel agencies sometimes will say to people, "All right, we will get you a work permit for \$50" or "Apply as soon as you come to Canada, and when you are working you pay us \$500". I do not know how frequently these things happen, but I have heard of this type of thing quite a few times.

The minister may not be at fault, and of course his charm is such that we hesitate to think he is at fault. However, it is high time that the cabinet of which he is a member made up its mind in respect of this matter. Maybe the minister has made proposals and the government will not undertake them. The