

*Immigration Act*

the legislation. The effects of such procedures, which I would certainly not recommend, would be unwelcome to say the least.

Apart from the extremely important problems of control and administration, there are other reasons for using the lack of visa alone as the cause of deportation, for instance: (a) The individual may have a medical condition, e.g. a social disease, which would make him prohibited from entry under the act. It would be embarrassing to the individual to reveal this. (b) The person may have benefited from an amnesty for a conviction in his past life. The conviction in itself could bring him within the prohibited class. To use it as a cause for deportation, however, exposes the situation and can cause serious harm to his reputation and personal interests.

I realize that if it is at all possible to do so it would be desirable to tell an applicant whose application for admission has been refused the reason for the rejection of his application. I must say I have an open mind on this and I can assure the hon. member that considerable attention will be given to some of the suggestions he has made, provided this can be done in accordance with the best interests of the individual concerned, and of course in the interests of Canada. I should like to inform the house that this matter is now under searching examination by those responsible for the administration in an effort to resolve this difficulty in as just and equitable a manner as possible, having regard to all the legitimate humanitarian and other circumstances involved.

The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) said the bill of rights had something to do with this. I wish to make it clear that the bill of rights does not affect the validity of a deportation order properly issued under the law. The bill of rights simply ensures that an individual is given all the safeguards which are contained in the law. The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) referred to certain situations where an applicant for Canadian citizenship is refused that status and is not informed of the reasons for refusal. I can assure the hon. member that the minister will look very closely into that complaint in connection with the examination of citizenship procedures now under way.

It is difficult to make generalizations about matters of this kind. However, hon. members can be certain that there is no desire on the part of the minister or the department to act in an unnecessarily arbitrary or bureaucratic manner as suggested by the hon. member for Bow River. At the same time, parliament has placed on the minister of this department the responsibility for exercising discretion in the

granting of admissions. This is not an exercise which the minister takes lightly and while it may not be in the public interest to give explanations in detail in all situations, hon. members may take it as a matter of record that a very exhaustive examination of the circumstances is undertaken before a decision is reached on matters of accepting landed immigrants.

It is not the intention of this government to deny to applicants for citizenship any privileges which, in conscience, they may properly be granted and as I have indicated, the department will again look into this matter to determine what, if anything, might be done with respect to methods introduced for the examination of applicants for citizenship in the future.

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Melfort-Humboldt-Tisdale):** It gives me great pleasure to say a few words on this bill, No. C-18, introduced by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), and I should like to say at the outset that I congratulate him on having brought this measure forward. I have no legal training and I cannot make such an eloquent presentation as my hon. friend from Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) has made. At the same time I should like to say there is much merit in the bill which the hon. member is asking us to consider.

Every member of parliament at one time or another has been confronted by people who came to this country and afterwards applied for citizenship papers and were refused citizenship. Every member of parliament at one time or another has been confronted by people who have received notice of deportation. I think our Department of Justice and our Department of Citizenship and Immigration should give serious consideration to having some changes brought about in our immigration laws.

First of all I think they should employ people to study the psychological behaviour of the immigrant. It is not the easiest thing for an immigrant coming from Europe or any other country to adjust himself to a new life and new customs. There is no question that some immigrants take a long time to break their ties with the old country, and because of this they may do something which later on they regret. Our officials should give serious consideration to these matters, because I know people who have said what they should not have said but as time has gone on they have adjusted themselves to our way of life, our country, our customs and our regulations and have become different people altogether.

I know of cases where immigrants who applied for citizenship were refused this privilege and who at the same time were