

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

ment in the country and thus make it a better place for all citizens to live. In order to do this, Mr. Chairman, we have to have a fair, reasonable and internationally honest immigration policy. I have had differences of opinion with the officials of the immigration department in the past but, knowing civil servants, I am sure these officials are all very sincere. They are well aware of the problems facing them. I think the hon. member for Peace River put forward a suggestion that would eliminate some of the problems facing the senior civil servants when he suggested the appointment of a committee that would study what the government of Canada wanted to accomplish, what our aims were in connection with immigration. I know that if the Canadian people were able to decide at an election by referendum whether or not they wanted to bring in more immigrants to raise the population of Canada rapidly in the next ten years, the vote would be overwhelmingly in favour of that course. I know also that if you asked the people who they wanted to bring in as immigrants you would receive as many varied answers as there are ethnic groups. There has to be a set policy.

The minister must be faced with tremendous problems, because his predecessors were. Each one of them, upon going into citizenship and immigration, said that he or she would revise the act; that the things the hon. member for Vancouver East so eloquently expressed were facts. Certainly no minister who has any human tendencies at all would be able to read these letters without feeling strong emotions. This situation has resulted, over the years, in many orders in council which are really only an excuse, a legal method of doing something by way of exception that you cannot do in general. I am sure this minister is faced with the same problem. I am sure that every one of his advisers will tell him: You should do this but you cannot; you cannot do these things for the reasons that have been developed over the years.

I was sorry to see the former deputy minister, Mr. Davidson, go, because he had great understanding and an abundance of humanity which would, in my opinion, have enabled him to overcome some of the reluctance to look beyond what is honestly accepted by most officials of the department as being the facts. Many officials feel there is no way of changing the situation without creating a situation even worse than the one we are trying to correct. I believe if a committee were set up it could decide some of the ways in which our aims could be accomplished. I

[Mr. Peters.]

believe the minister is going to have to consider this committee set-up before he proceeds to change the act.

It is true, Mr. Chairman, that I have not been here very long but I have heard every minister say, privately and publicly, that he or she intended to do something about the Immigration Act. I should like, just for a moment, to mention one problem that has faced us and with which we are running into the greatest difficulty now. I refer to the Asiatic immigration policy. I was shocked when I heard the minister say a few weeks ago that the amnesty order for Chinese would be off as of then. I do not believe that is possible. It is not possible for the simple reason that the officials of the department have not been able to get the Chinese population to believe their story. This is a problem for two reasons: One, the officials cannot speak Chinese, which is probably the greatest barrier and, two, there are not enough officials in the field who know the Chinese population well enough to have been able to establish a private relationship. There is no need to go into what happened six or seven years ago. All you have to do is look over the orders in council and you will find where the fault lies respecting many of these immigrants who came in illegally. They came in because of pressure groups. They were brought in by agencies and by people who wanted cheap labour. This was an organized thing to a certain extent, and I imagine that to some degree it still continues; but in fairness to the department, in most areas I know it has been cleaned up, including both the Hong Kong situation and that affecting the officials who operate in the Chinese communities in Canada.

However, we have not been able to convince the Chinese people. I spoke to seven or eight Chinese not long ago, and after I left them I was told seven of them admitted they should be applying under the amnesty order and that they were prepared to do so. We have not enough interpreters to handle the work under the amnesty order, and therefore I think the minister has to leave the order open, while at the same time making it plain that it will not last indefinitely, because if it does we will never be able to improve the Immigration Act sufficiently to stop illegal immigration.

Illegal immigration is a multimillion dollar racket. Every pseudo-gangster in the country wants to get into it because it is real big business. Recently I talked to a young Chinese boy who said he was brought in on a \$30 a