

Private Members' Business

C-316 is the way, fine. If it is not the way, then we know the problem, we know what Canadians want, we know what the solution is, and it is the job of the people of this House to figure out the way to accomplish that solution.

That in itself is a reason for the hon. member to be commended. I agree with the parliamentary secretary that this government should be commended for having dealt with part of these issues in the bill that we recently passed in this House. I agree that that bill will help, but it is not by itself the answer.

I dare say, Mr. Speaker, I do not think you would be too hard pressed to find anyone in Canada who would not say as a starting principle that if you are not a citizen of the country and have committed a serious offence in which you could be sentenced to 10 years or more, out you go, and you had better have a mighty good reason to convince Canadians that you should stay.

The bill provides for that. It provides for an opportunity for the potential deportee to have counsel and to speak. It provides for the appeal mechanism. It also provides for the situation where someone perhaps came here at age five and for all intents and purposes is a Canadian, has forgotten for technical reasons to apply for Canadian citizenship, has not been involved with the law before and perhaps at age 30 commits an offence. The person for all intents and purposes is a Canadian citizen except

technically. The bill deals with that. It provides that it would not apply to circumstances of that nature.

In brief and in closing, I simply want to congratulate the member again for identifying a problem that certainly irritates Canadians—Canadians who are tolerant, Canadians who are by and large either immigrants themselves or the descendants of immigrants, who tolerate and want immigration, who are happy to see immigration to this country and who realize that immigrants are a benefit to this country.

We know as surely as we stand here that for every person who is convicted of an offence and abuses the hospitality of the country, there are 10,000 who would come here tomorrow and never even get a parking ticket.

I say that we have to look at those people who are prepared to come here and abide by the laws of this country and have very little tolerance for those who abuse our hospitality.

The Deputy Speaker: The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

It being 2.23 p.m., the House stands adjourned until Monday at 11 a.m.

(The House adjourned at 2.23 p.m.) ,