

Immigration Act

An hon. MEMBER: They came to this country, did they not?

Mr. FERGUSON: They made this country.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Let us all wait a minute.

Mr. MITCHELL: —received just as good a medical examination as any member of this House of Commons of the first generation or the previous generation, and probably better.

Mr. FERGUSON: They did not cost the country \$500 a day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the hon. gentleman that when an hon. member has the floor he may not be interrupted without his permission.

Mr. MITCHELL: When you trace the history of immigration into Canada, I have no doubt that, if you could find out what the Indians originally thought of newcomers, you would find that they called new Canadians, whether Anglo-Saxon or anything else, foreigners. I can remember that when I first came to Canada I saw notices posted here and there, "No Englishman need apply". But the leader of the C.C.F. party, in common with myself and many other members of this house who came to Canada during that time, has made his contribution to the nation, just as we all have. But they no doubt said the same about Scotsmen and Irishmen. They said the same about Italians and Ukrainians, and the hon. member for Lake Centre said the same about Poles today.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: On a question of privilege, I never made any derogatory remarks whatever regarding the Poles. They are good citizens and I welcome them. I did, however, criticize the failure to give proper medical examination as indicating lack of efficiency on the part of the immigration authorities.

Mr. MITCHELL: May I say to my hon. friend that those good people who fought the battles of freedom in this war, when he and I were in Canada, received a better examination than his forefathers did. I say, Mr. Speaker, that had it not been, either through ignorance or by design, however you choose to put it, that our United States friends filled up the North American continent, we would not be here to-day and this parliament would not be in session. In my opinion this war was won on the North American continent, and I am not talking about the sacrifice of human life. I believe that the last war was won in the industrial structure of North America.

An hon. MEMBER: What has that to do with the bill?

[Mr. Ferguson.]

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend would not understand if I told him.

Mr. COCKERAM: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, may I say that any time we criticize any statement made by any member of the government we are met with the retort that we do not know what we are talking about.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. gentleman wishes to speak to a point of order I would ask him to state it.

Mr. COCKERAM: My point of order is this, Mr. Speaker. When some of us interrupt we are told by hon. gentlemen opposite that we do not know what we are talking about. They always have some smart reply and try to shout us down in that way.

Mr. MITCHELL: Let me say this to my hon. friend, and I do not think there is any need for a point of order on this observation. The trouble with my Toronto Tory friends—and I lived in Hamilton for thirty years—is that they think they should govern by divine right. Thank goodness, they are the only people who think so.

There is nothing in the books that says we should inherit this continent by divine right. If you have something that the other fellow wants and you are not prepared to defend it you will lose it. What we have to do in the Dominion of Canada, with our twelve million people, is to fill it up in the light of world developments.

An hon. MEMBER: Not with Tories though.

Mr. MITCHELL: I will take a chance on good Liberals without socialists.

An hon. MEMBER: Now you are talking up our alley.

Mr. MITCHELL: It is a pretty long alley too. I remember the day when as a comparatively young man I sat in this house with my hon. friend's party and others during the depression, from the 1930's on, and they wanted to send people back to the old country because they were destitute through forces over which they had no control. I have a vivid recollection of that. To my good friend the hon. member for Lake Centre I wish to say, as the Minister of Labour responsible for bringing these good Polish people to Canada, that I am proud of it.

Mr. G. A. CRUICKSHANK (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have here a message addressed to me from Rivière du Loup: "George Cruickshank, M.P., House of Commons. Take my seat and keep it warm while