

Immigration

with free board and lodging. Moreover, many of those who have been engaged in undesirable activities, or who lack the qualifications for normal entry are the kind who would not mind experiencing our hospitality for a year. It seems to me we are being asked to approve a foolish way of tackling the situation caused by the re-entry of people who have been deported.

It seems to me that the Department of Immigration, which is very interested in knowing whether a person has brought in an extra carton of cigarettes—

An hon. Member: Those are the customs people.

Mr. Peters: Well, the people who land here go through the same process. It seems to me that our officials should be aware of the identity of those who have been deported and that they should not let them re-enter. Why should we allow them to enter, and then try to catch them and deport them again after keeping them here for a year? I know that my colleagues believe that if you break the law you should be punished, but it seems to me the public will be paying a lot of money to punish these immigrants, particularly if they are poor.

If Howard Hughes happened to come here I suppose the department could collect \$500 as he left. If Howard Hughes wants to come to this country, probably he would not be deported, and doubtless never has been deported. He has been here a number of times, and when he is ready to leave he does go. No one is ever sure whether he is in this country or not.

● (2140)

I happened to be in another country about a year ago, at a time when members of its government were taking strong measures to find out whether Howard Hughes was in a certain hotel in that country. If he had been they would have deported him, but they were not able to establish whether he was in the country. By the time they were, I guess he had left anyway.

What I am saying is that the rich will pay \$500 and enjoy our facilities for a certain period of time, whereas the poor will be subject to one year's accommodation at our expense. This situation reminds me very much of our penal system. We have a very good judiciary and some excellent lawyers, particularly prosecuting lawyers. I do not know about the defence lawyers, but the prosecuting ones are good. People are put in jail and we feed them, clothe them, and probably train them as well. We then let them out but they come back again, and we do this over and over again. It seems to be the only system we can devise.

We have never been smart enough to do something about these people who are incarcerated for a period of time. Putting people in jail costs a lot of money, but as the years go by it seems more and more people end up in jail. Canada now has the dubious reputation of having more people per capita incarcerated than any other civilized country in the world. This bill will add yet another category.

I suggest the minister should seriously consider doing something to prevent people who are deported from Canada ever returning again. I understand from one of my

[Mr. Peters.]

colleagues that on the border they have a system whereby they know all about a person who is driving through in a matter of seconds, simply by nothing his licence plates. I suggest we should do the same with people who are deported. If the manifest shows that these people are undesirable, we should not let them across the border. Then we would not have the problem of deporting them.

Perhaps the immigration minister should do what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) does. He does not let unwanted oranges or animals come into this country. Not long ago I entered the United States from another foreign country and the customs officer asked me if I had any pets, vegetables or other agricultural products with me. I said no, I did not, but that I was only stopping off in that country on my way through to Canada. I told him that Canadian law was much stricter than theirs in regard to prohibiting plants or animals from entering the country.

We do have a reputation around the world for stopping contraband in the form of plants or pets entering Canada, though we do not seem to have any system for preventing unwanted people from entering the country. I suppose there are some pets you might want to bring in that would meet the requirements of the minister of immigration, but the other kinds that are classified are not allowed in at all.

This bill is going to cost the Canadian public a lot of money over the years, and it is going to mean that the poor people who come to this country, many from ethnic groups who are not very well off when they arrive, are going to end up in jail at the expense of the Canadian public. In my opinion these people are not really guilty of an offence; they are only guilty of wanting to come to Canada when we do not want them.

Mr. Andras: This bill does not deal with that.

Mr. Peters: No. But the point is that we do not want them here. They would like to come here, and this bill is for our protection, not necessarily theirs.

There are many reasons for deporting these people, and most of them are deported because they did not come through the proper channels. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) is probably well aware of the fact that there are agencies in many parts of the world that send people to this country as wetbacks, much like the old Mexican border trick where immigrants think they are coming here legitimately and pay their money to come, but when they arrive find they have broken the law unintentionally. Their only real offence was that they wanted to come here in the first place. These are the people I suggest we will be putting in jail because they have broken our law, and in my opinion they cannot be blamed for wanting to come and make their homes in this country.

I suggest that we should strengthen our immigration regulations at the border. Most people arrive in this country by air and could easily be checked. I am sure it would not be difficult for the immigration minister to have his officials obtain the manifests from the countries of origin. They would be able to check with Interpol the aliases, passports and other travel paraphernalia of these immigrants. Most people arrive thinking they will be allowed to stay, not realizing they are acting illegally. Usually they do not use the sort of dodge others use to get into this country.