

Immigration Appeal Board Act

problem with immigration that they want to have corrected, such as a plea for the union of a family that is separated, primarily Ugandan Asians,—perhaps there is a wife in England and two members of the family out here who don't have landed immigrant status because they took a plane before they could get a medical—these problems have been straightened out.

I am personally looking forward to working on the committee and bringing forth suggestions with the support of other parties. Good suggestions have been made which the minister has noted, and hopefully we will be able to make the twentieth century and the dawn of the twenty-first Canada's era as a result of the unique assemblance of people from all over the world as our citizens. May I, Mr. Speaker, call it one o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at two o'clock this afternoon.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Arrol: Mr. Speaker, in thinking over what I said prior to the one o'clock adjournment, I find that I said, in fact, what I wanted to say so, in the interests of listening to other views, I will give up my right to speak now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to prolong the debate unduly, but I would like to make a few remarks.

I must say, first of all, that to my mind Bill C-197 will benefit the immigrants and improve their treatment. It is a fact that in many provinces, at the federal level, of course, there are too many delays.

The bill before us is entitled "An Act to amend the Immigration Appeal Board Act", and its recommendation reads as follows:

RECOMMENDATION

His Excellency the Governor General has recommended to the House of Commons the present measure to amend the Immigration Appeal Board Act to give the Governor in Council the permanent power to appoint up to seven temporary members to the Board and the temporary power to appoint such number of temporary members as the Governor in Council considers necessary to eliminate the Board's backlog of appeals and anticipated appeals.

We should therefore proceed with more haste than in the past. In fact, we have seen cases pending for three, four and even five years, before being dealt with by the Immigration Appeal Board.

● (1410)

Mr. Speaker, there is however a deficiency in the bill which should deal somewhat with the importance of

Canadian provinces as far as immigration is concerned. There is not only a board to be set up in order to determine whether the immigrant is accepted, but the wishes of the Canadian provinces must be taken into account. For example, to settle in British Columbia is not the same thing as to settle in Quebec. It seems to me that there should be consultations between the federal authorities, the Immigration Appeal Board and the provincial authorities before any decision is taken in consideration.

We have immigrants, Mr. Speaker, arriving from every part of the world. We have Russians, Bulgarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Dutchmen, Frenchmen, people from Lebanon, Africa, South America, Ukraine, Japan, China, etc. It is understood that under the new legislation relating to multiculturalism, these people will always be respected by the Canadian people at large and by parliament in particular.

Mr. Speaker, some problems are cropping up in almost every country. I happened to visit many European countries and read some advertising relating to immigration to Canada. One could read a few unthinkable things. An applicant who decided to settle in Canada thought that he was coming over here to do nothing and that everything would come to him from Heaven like manna in the desert, at the time of Hebrews. When he arrives in Canada, the situation is quite different. They should be put before their responsibilities, their duties, when arriving in Canada.

For instance, there is in our country multiculturalism, as I said, as well as bilingualism; there are two official languages in Canada. It would be wise, I suggest, to point out to immigrants, before they leave their home country, that there are two official languages in Canada: French and English; we should no longer act as we did in the past.

I am a French-speaking Canadian and I will fight as long as I can so that my language rights are respected; I will even fight so that language rights of English-speaking people are respected. Today, especially in Quebec, one can hear some bawlers say: A few immigrants did not want to learn French; we should force them, force them, force them—

Mr. Speaker, this reminds me a little of the Quebec history, and I lived this history. I will give you quite a striking example.

I come from the northwest of Quebec, from Abitibi, more precisely from Amos. In 1924, Mr. Horn, from Toronto, who only spoke English, discovered the deposit of Noranda.

An hon. Member: In the province of Quebec.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): —in the province of Quebec! The border between Ontario and Quebec did not stop him. He went through in a canoe.

Mr. Horn put his mine up for sale. It is not the Montreal people who bought it; they could have done it, but they did not. It is the Toronto people, the English, who bought the mine. Then, the operations began. I am speaking of the Noranda mine that we know now.

In 1924, Mr. Speaker—I had reached the age of reason, I was aware of what was happening—the officials of the Noranda mine were looking for miners; they were going through villages of Abitibi: Amos, La Sarre, La Reine,