

will prove beneficial to those who wish to come to Canada. It will give immigrants the ground rules and the basis upon which they can be permitted to practise architecture, or law, or to become licensed as an electrician for that matter.

In conclusion, under existing legislation there are many occupations in Canada that require compulsory licensing. By licensing, I mean the compulsory demonstration of the possession of a certain education, training, experience and other qualifications to the satisfaction of a provincial or municipal authority, or a professional association, before permission to practise a particular occupation is granted. The number of occupations subject to licensing varies from province to province. I understand that in Ontario there are something like 42 occupations on the compulsory list, ranging in alphabetical order from architects to welders. In addition, comprehensive information on the conditions that relate to the employment aspirations of a prospective immigrant, as well as a knowledge of suitable alternatives, is an essential prerequisite to realistic counselling, particularly by immigration officers.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, this is developing into something of a non-debate. It seems to me that the question we have to ask ourselves is why the government does not produce the report in question. It is quite obvious that the report itself is of extreme importance to many Canadians, be they members of professions, professional immigrants trying to become licensed in Canada, or the general public. I think that if this report has anything to tell us it should be released. On the other hand, if there is good reason for not releasing it, then we should be told. However, up to this point I have heard no such reason put forward.

I thought that perhaps the hon. member who spoke on the government side of the House would put forward some reason why the government does not intend to let the House see this report. It could be that the parliamentary secretary is going to use the last few minutes of the hour to explain why the government will not produce the report, and I am willing to wait and see what he is going to say. But if we receive no good reason for withholding this report, then I am going to vote for its production. The government could very easily tell the House that this report is not complete. They could tell us that the study is not complete, or that it would be premature to release the report at this time. Or the government could tell us that the report involves provincial rights to the extent that its release would only create dissension. If reasons such as these were given, then I might be inclined to agree that they had some substance.

I cannot agree with one statement made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), who said he thought that the government should set professional standards. As a professional person I cannot think of anything worse than to have someone within the government regulate the professions. I think the professions have to regulate themselves, and I think they are most capable of doing so, regardless of all talk to the contrary. Perhaps some of the professions—and law is no exception—are inclined to get behind the times, to become

Education Standards

sterile and stereotyped. I am sure this is the case in the legal profession as much as any other. But public opinion usually brings the members of such professions up to date and forces them to give the public the type of service that the public expects from them. So personally I should not like to see any change considered. We are wasting our breath, however, in talking about it here, because these are provincial matters. We have nothing to say about them in this House. The professions are licensed by the provinces. That situation is likely to continue.

• (5:30 p.m.)

But there is another problem which does concern the federal government. I refer to immigration. I believe it has been obvious for a number of years—I can think back at least ten years in this regard—that people have been brought into Canada who belonged to professions in their own countries and believed that after a short period of retraining and brushing up they would be working here in their professions. They believed this would occur in a matter of months, or a year at the most. I know personally of people who came to Canada with the belief that they would be accepted here after they learned to apply their knowledge to local conditions. After arriving here they found this was not the situation at all.

These people would move from province to province in the hope that in one province they would be accepted because there might be a shortage, or because the standards might be lower or might be altered. They had to move around this country to find where they might be accepted and where their qualifications would be considered adequate. So we have a federal agency bringing people into the country to carry on business in their professions, which are licensed by the provinces. There would seem to have been a complete absence of communication between the professions and the federal department of immigration. This situation has developed time after time in connection with doctors, dentists and other professional people who have come to Canada.

I admit that many licensed professionals who come to this country should not be practising their professions in Canada, for three or four reasons. One obvious reason is that the professional standards in the country from which such a person comes may be much lower than ours. In many countries a profession rates much lower than it does in Canada, and therefore the educational standards are lower. In many countries the need for professional persons is very great and urgent. Therefore, these people are admitted to practice in the professions, particularly in medicine, with less training than we consider necessary in this country.

Another problem is language. Many people who come to Canada are unable to carry on their business or profession in the language of the region in which they establish. Nothing is worse than misunderstanding between a professional person and his client. Also, local conditions in many cases are very different. I know, for example, that a great many professional planners are being brought into this country. These people hold