

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

recently with another immigrant. I spoke to this chap because I am always interested in finding out how they are getting on, and I said to him, "How do you like Canada?" He said, "Well, not too much". I said, "What is wrong?" and he said, "In Canada you say 'Uncle Louie' and in Germany we say 'Herr Adenauer'". I said, "What else is wrong?" and he said, "In Canada when a Canadian soldier is in a restaurant and a Canadian officer comes in he goes on eating. But in Germany when a German officer comes in a soldier stands up, salutes, and opens the door". Then I said, "What else?" and he replied, "Too many Jews in Canada. Hitler fixed them". I did not want to get upset with the man but I hope he will change his ideas after living here some time. However, that shows that we are getting people into Canada who, after all that has happened in recent years, have not any idea of what we stand for in this country. Certainly there are hundreds of thousands of good German people anxious to come to this country who want to live under improved conditions and accept our democratic way of life. But I do not think it is necessary to bring to this country people who still adhere to the philosophy of those who saw fit to join the German elite guard and SS troops. Now, that is all I am going to say in this connection.

I say these things with conviction and feeling because Canadian citizenship means something and it is something we should extend to people who in accepting it realize they are accepting one of the most valued citizenships in the world. I might add that the conversation with the man about whom I spoke was held in the presence of the widow of one of the finest men who ever lived in Canada, a man of Jewish descent and who died 10 years ago from his war disability.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I leave that subject at that point, and I now want to say a few words on our general immigration policy. I think that in certain aspects our policy, other than the policy for screening, is unfair to Canadians and unfair to the immigrants. I do not think we should bring in immigrants unless we are certain they are going to be placed in employment and are not going to compete with Canadians for already scarce housing. The present unplanned policy is unfair to Canadians and the immigrants concerned. It is now providing competition for employment and for scarce housing. We recognize our national responsibility to help ease the tremendous burdens created in Europe and other countries, and we think we have got to do all we can to provide homes for those people who need them. That is why the C.C.F. party has continually

[Mr. Herridge.]

urged a certain program with respect to immigration. That program is an assurance that standards of employment, wages, hours, and conditions of work of immigrants shall not be less than those in effect for other Canadians. Careful preparation and planning to ensure that houses and jobs are available for those who come and that the livelihood and living standards of our present population are not threatened. Also, non-discriminatory selection of immigrants from all countries and categories subject only to the limitations of a planned immigration scheme. Our immigration policy should provide for the bringing to Canada of as many desirable immigrants as can be absorbed into our economy without creating unemployment or intensifying the housing shortage.

We should also make very certain that no undesirable persons are allowed into Canada or obtain Canadian citizenship. As I said before there are multitudes of good people from other lands who would make excellent citizens in this country. I also think we should stop bringing immigrants to Canada to work on contract labour on railroads and projects like that where there are no collective agreements and on which they can be exploited and employed for less than persons employed for that class of labour generally receive.

Now, I want to make a plea for the admission of certain persons who are relatives of Canadian citizens of Chinese origin and I would like to make that plea as vigorous as I can. I realize some of these people have been admitted to the country and permitted to obtain citizenship. I might say that I had a long association with many excellent Canadian citizens of Chinese origin. They never become charges of the state and never ask for any government assistance. That fact is recognized across this country. They live in peace and harmony with other residents and have become essential ingredients of many communities in Canada. I urge the minister to give serious consideration to the brief presented by the Chinese benevolent association in which they ask for an easing of the regulations. As a matter of fact, we are showing discrimination against certain Canadian citizens, namely these Canadian citizens of Chinese origin, East Indian origin and other origins. We are treating them differently from the way in which other citizens in Canada are treated. This brief asks for consideration of certain important things. I am not going to take the time to deal with them at the moment. I am sure that the minister has gone over the subject carefully.