

Associated with me is Mr. B. Staniszewski, the general secretary of the Canadian Polish Congress, who is here to answer any questions that honourable senators may put and which I am not able to answer. I have condensed my submissions in writing and I should like to have the permission of the Honourable Chairman to refer to them.

The CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

In the course of the extensive investigation into the problem of Immigration by your Committee during the 1946 session of the Senate, the Canadian Polish Congress, as one of the many organizations appearing before you, was given the opportunity of presenting its views. At that time the Canadian Polish Congress laid a main stress on the plea of admission into Canada of former members of the Polish Armed Forces demobilized in the United Kingdom

Based on the submissions made and evidence adduced by organizations, prominent Canadians, and Government officials, your Committee issued its report on the 13th day of August, 1946. The impartial review of facts, the objective analysis of the subject and the sound conclusions drawn therefrom, make the report a most valuable record for the study of the problem under your consideration. In my humble opinion, this report is a most outstanding achievement in the history of the Senate of Canada. In this connection, I have much pleasure in extending through you, Mr. Chairman, the most sincere congratulations of the Canadian Polish Congress for undertaking such an important task. As the report shows, it has been clearly established that:

- (a) the problem of immigration is one of the most urgent problems which our country has to face in these years of post-war readjustment;
- (b) on its early solution depends the future of Canada as an economically and politically great nation among nations;
- (c) Canada can absorb a large number of properly selected immigrants—in fact a much larger number than can now be secured.

You are already possessed of a great deal of historical, statistical and scientific data, and I shall therefore endeavour not to weary you with repetitions. Should I be doing so, please bear with me. However, the truth cannot be repeated often enough until public opinion has become thoroughly acquainted with the facts. Old prejudices and preconceived ideas based on ignorance or misinformation, cannot be eradicated overnight. Despite the excellent work done by this Committee for over a year, and we believe the effect it had on the Government to take measures in enlarging the classes of immigrants to be admitted to Canada, the state of affairs right now is far from encouraging.

To our knowledge, only a very small group of immigrants from the European Continent has reached our shores in the last eight months. This fact is disquieting, having regard to the sources of proposed immigrants willing and able to come if only our Government would take the initiative to provide the necessary machinery. In many respects time is running short.

At this point I wish to share the views that the honourable chairman expressed in the record that was filed at the beginning of the session.

To many who are anxiously awaiting the green light to come over, the period of suffering might prove too long. There cannot be any doubt that a good number of displaced persons and war refugees over whose fate we are here deliberating, will be dead if we should be unable to hasten their entry to our country. To others, the years of uncertainty, frustration, and idleness will leave their indelible mark. Thus valuable human resources of which this country is in dire need, are being wasted, perhaps beyond recovery, with every minute in which decisions are deferred. Undue procrastination may well leave Canada in the backwash of the great movement, and shift of populations going on now in the world. Such movements are being channeled into definite directions which it might be difficult to change and re-divert to this country later on. Moreover,