

The Budget—Mr. Girard

and families of substance, but they are excluded because they do not yet fall within the so-called admissible categories. These must be changed. We should stop playing around with categories and with choking restrictions and display the dauntless courage of our convictions. Additional staff should be hired if necessary to expedite processing and a vigorous assault should be made on every possible source of immigrants.

Our fast-growing country, our vast industrial potential, our advancing standard of living and our defence requirements create a voracious appetite for people. This appetite cannot be satiated by a spoon-fed immigration program. No, not by a mere selective trickle of immigrants will we meet our country's ever-increasing need for people. We need millions, not hundreds or thousands, but millions.

Our approach should frankly be that we seek and want immigrants, and if they are in good health, if they meet our security requirements and have integrating possibilities, they should be welcomed. Our immigration officials are compelled by regulations to make decisions which I know they wish were otherwise. I know they would personally be much happier men if they could say "yes" more frequently than "no". A change in policy and regulations should be made to make this possible and help produce the results we seek.

It is my respectful submission that if we are really to benefit from our vast natural resources, we should not deal with them in a dog in the manger fashion. Some countries live behind an iron curtain; let us not behave as though we have dropped at our ports of entrance a golden curtain behind which we Canadians gloat and past which no one but the select can enter.

On the other hand I am convinced that only a generous lifting of this golden curtain, together with a farsighted and courageous immigration program, will enable us to enjoy the blessings of a happy country. More people will provide an abundance of consumer markets. This will sustain an abundance of production, and this in turn will provide an abundance of employment. This program will in addition help build our defences, assist in lowering our per capita overhead cost of maintaining our ever-increasing national responsibilities, and cumulatively shower upon our country heavenly benedictions for sharing with our brethren in greater numbers the bounteous natural resources which the Almighty has placed in our trust.

Mr. Fernand Girard (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, before going on with my speech I would like to give a friendly welcome to the

[Mr. Crestohl.]

new member in our corner. While he is sitting to the left he is not a leftist member. If there are any others who feel that they would like to come here, they will be welcomed. We do not accept everyone, but we need some good members.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, during the next few minutes I would like to raise a problem which is now stirring public opinion in the province of Quebec, a problem which only Ottawa can solve equitably.

I do not intend speaking at length on the budget, because I fully approve the judicious remarks of my colleague, the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Poulin). As independent members of the house, we have, although with some reservations, deemed it our duty to support the present budget, because it is a step toward lowering of taxes. We regret, however, that the minister left aside other important matters, such as increasing the basic exemption for personal income tax, decreasing extravagant government expenditures, finding an efficient solution to the unemployment problem, and adjusting family allowances in conformity with the rate intended by the government in 1945 and the spirit in which they were enacted, from which they have strayed as a result of the increase in the cost of living during the past seven years. However, we believed that by supporting the new Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris), we might be able to bring him to decrease government expenditures, which are truly extravagant.

Mr. Speaker, the matter I would like to bring to the attention of the house relates to the name of the future Canadian National hotel in Montreal.

I understand that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Marler) have received numerous requests from every corner of the province and even from outside, asking that the hotel be called "Chateau Maisonneuve". If my information is correct I believe that over 200,000 protests and representations have been or will be received by the Canadian National. I have personally received several hundreds of them; that is why I am rising to support the project.

Mr. Speaker, why do we want a French name for this Montreal hotel? I hardly feel it necessary to indicate any reasons here since they all seem so perfectly evident, the