

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think I can say something rather briefly and in general terms concerning the goal or the aim or the target at which we are shooting, or whatever you like to call it. I like to be candid and call it a guess; however, it is the same for next year as for last year.

Mr. MICHENER: Which was about \$164,000?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: We think, as we look at it at present, that the number of immigrants actually admitted in 1954 can easily be absorbed in 1955 unless there should be some change in the economy which is not now anticipated. Therefore, so far as the immigrants are concerned the number is about the same.

One of the other big jobs of this department to which no one seems to pay much attention, and to which the deputy minister referred a few minutes ago, is that the officials of the department have to clear 50 million border crossings each year and these numbers do not go down. There were not actually 50 million border crossings in 1949. I do not have the figure at my fingertips but it could be easily obtained. This is, however, one of the very big jobs of this department and it continues to grow with the growth of the population of Canada and North America. The number of border crossings which have to be checked grows a little every year.

Mr. Michener referred to something which causes me real concern and it is this question of the promotional activity that will have to be engaged in to get as many immigrants of the kind we want to get in the coming year as we got in 1954. I think more effort will have to be put into that. I do not think it will be as easy to find people, particularly in northern and western Europe, because of the increased prosperity in that whole area. I think everyone realizes that there is a connection between the economic and general social conditions of a community and the desire to migrate. As I indicated in my answer to Mr. Michener's question yesterday in the House, we are faced with a problem concerning citizenship in Toronto, Montreal and one or two of the other big centres. The number of applications for citizenship has increased overwhelmingly. Those immigrants who came to Canada before 1949 and who have stayed here have been resident in Canada for five years and they are in the normal course eligible for citizenship. That means that the large immigration of the period before 1949 is beginning to reflect itself in the number of applications for citizenship, and this is only the beginning. Next year and the year after and the year after that, it will have increased again and as a matter of fact the steps that we are now contemplating taking in Toronto are going to mean almost certainly that we will have to add to the staff over and above what is provided for in these estimates. That will not cost the taxpayers anything because there is a \$10 fee and if these operations are carried on economically they should be self-supporting.

Mr. CAMERON (*Nanaimo*): I was just wondering about the point which the minister brought up concerning the tremendous amount of time consumed in dealing with border crossings from the United States. Has the department any information which could inform us of the actual practical worth of those inquiries at the border? I have in mind, of course, that the idea is to prevent illegal entries and to prevent undesirable criminals perhaps in slipping over the border. Do we actually intercept people by this means or is it a worthless function which we perform?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think I had a question made an order for return yesterday and I had it made an order for return because it will take a little time to assemble the figures. I think the figures will show about what proportion of people we do intercept and turn back. The fact of the matter is, of course, that the word "deportation" is used in two senses. I hope I will obtain the support of everybody here and of everybody else in parliament when