

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

**Mr. Starr:** Just one moment; let us not get over enthusiastic, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of members who would like to ask questions, and I know a member of this party would like to say a few words at the commencement of our consideration of vote 1. If I may make a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you should take your time on item 1.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** The minister is not here, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Woolliams:** We do not want to pass his estimates before he arrives.

**Mr. Turner:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. minister is here.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, is it the hon. minister's intention to make an opening statement?

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Chairman, I should just like to make a short statement at this time. I will be receiving the estimates which are still in my office. I never thought that things would go so fast this afternoon.

*[Translation]*

First of all, Mr. Chairman, I wish to congratulate my predecessor, the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson), for the progress he achieved when he was Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

I should like also to pay special tribute to all the former Ministers of Citizenship and Immigration now sitting in this house—I think there are six. Of all ministers, I am probably the one most closely watched by his ancestors knowing that they are all men of distinction, I am glad to pay tribute to them.

Now, as you know, the immigration branch will eventually become part of the department of manpower. In due course, we shall have the opportunity to discuss this aspect of the matter. For the present, concerning immigration, I should like to point out to the house that, last year, 142,000 immigrants entered Canada, an increase of probably 30 per cent over the previous year. According to figures just received for January, another increase of 30 per cent also is shown over January 1965.

There is no doubt that, for the development and growth of Canada, continuing immigration adequate to meet the needs of the labour market is essential.

Now, I do not wish to limit or restrict if you wish, the value of immigration to mere statistics, but the house may be interested in

*[The Deputy Chairman.]*

knowing that to bring an immigrant into the country costs approximately \$100, while the investment value, that is, the money the immigrant brings with him to Canada, is approximately \$1,000. That is to say, last year, the financial investments of immigrants are said to have reached \$150 million.

Our immigration is surely not always what we would hope it to be, and for many reasons. As a matter of fact, we are unable to obtain all the skilled labour we would like at present, not through fanaticism or, let us say, owing to a predetermined policy, but because certain countries refuse or are reluctant to send immigrants to Canada. For instance, France rather frowns upon the immigration of its citizens. There is also the fact that we do not have an immigration office in every country of the world. And, finally, I must point out that, at this time, we are not the only country seeking skilled labour. Most European countries enjoy full employment and want to keep their skilled labour, and rightly so, but this obviously puts a limit on our immigration sources.

This is the first time I submit to this committee estimates which are already spent, and were spent by another minister, but nevertheless I shall readily accept the questions you may want to ask.

*[English]*

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, I regret very much that the committee is crowded for time in the discussion of these estimates. No department of government could profit more from a thorough and exhaustive examination of its policies and practices, and from a clear directive by the government and parliament regarding its future activities. In my view, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration has suffered from parliamentary neglect with the result that dedicated officers, unable to see in what direction the government and parliament wished the policies of the department to point, have been made to feel like orphans in the storm, not a few of them frustrated and enraged by the persistent shifts, and changes of emphasis in policy.

So, sir, the congratulations I offer to the minister on his maiden presentation of the estimates to parliament must be tempered by the recollection of the manner in which the Department of Citizenship and Immigration has been slighted by the Prime Minister; I may say, even treated with disdain approaching scorn. One need only recall that in a period of only 40 months there have been six