

*Immigration Decline*

Let us hope that the minister, now that he has re-emerged as an active minister in this chamber, will present us with a few answers and some practical means of readjusting the Immigration balance.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the fact that the minister says it is still the policy of the government, notwithstanding the actual decline in the number of immigrants, to continue efforts to encourage immigrants to come to this country on a non-discriminatory basis.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** There is discrimination.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Against West Indian mice?

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I have the floor or whether there is a debate going on between others in the chamber.

**Mr. Speaker:** May we have order, please.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, I was about to say that although I welcome this attitude of the government I am afraid it is not fully reflected in the processes for the admission of immigrants. They are highly unsatisfactory at the present time. They are far too subjective. Too much is left to the discretion of individual officers under personality assessment. There is too much secrecy. Fifteen of the points for an immigrant who seeks 50 points to come into this country have to do with what is called occupational demand and are based on figures collected by the department, but these figures are kept secret from applicants, their lawyers and, indeed, from the Immigration Appeal Board which has the duty to review these matters. We have made a farce out of the special inquiry hearings and out of immigration appeal procedures by this policy of secrecy, and I hope it is going to cease before long.

Along with other members of the House I have been waiting for a long time for the fulfilment of the undertaking of the minister and his predecessors to spell out in clear terms the right of refugees to come into this country and the terms under which they may come. It is all very well to wait for emergencies such as that in Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately, however, there are refugees from other parts of the world, and I hope it will not be too long before their rights to come to this country are spelled out.

[Mr. Paproski.]

I notice a major decline in the flow of immigrants from Italy and I believe one of the reasons is that there are many Italians in this country who are able to look after their aging parents but cannot bring them here until they reach the age of 65. It is a real hardship when, without doing any damage to our labour force, families cannot be united because these young people who have made a success in Canada as citizens are not given the opportunity to bring parents and other close relatives to this country.

The Act needs revision. Revision was promised three years ago in a white paper but there has been no revision yet. What is happening in the department? What is the energetic minister doing about revision of the Act? Let us have a revision of the Immigration Act. The regulations introduced in 1967 have proved unsatisfactory in many respects. Let us have a parliamentary committee review them.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, anyone familiar with this field knows that the special inquiry proceedings and the Immigration Appeal Board are burdened with too many cases. If more personnel is needed they should be hired, despite the freeze, because it is important that the flow of immigration to this country not be impeded by the blockage that is happening at the present time.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** It is shocking.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I have not quite understood why the minister felt himself required to justify this drop of 10 per cent in the immigration figure for the first nine months of the year. However, it is my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, that quantity is less important than quality in immigration.

We know that, particularly during the past few years, the government selection procedures have involved requirements for higher qualifications from would-be immigrants. I wonder, however, whether their moral qualifications are being given sufficient consideration. In fact, during the past five years, among those who appeared before our courts because of participation in demonstrations, mostly in recent months, we find that too often those involved are newcomers to Canada.

While we require technical knowledge from would-be immigrants, we find that a great many young Canadians, technical school or